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THE KNIGHT NEWS



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Breaking News & Video

Journalism in the Interest of the Queens College Community

STUDENTS MOURN CHAPEL HILL SHOOTING



Photo by Yongmin Cho

Queens College students
gathered in solidarity
to honor three Muslim
students murdered in
alleged hate crime

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Environment Club

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Anger over CUNY's
snowday policy

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EDITORIAL

Journalism losing its own credibility

Brian Williams, famous for anchoring NBC's The Nightly News, was suspended earlier this month for lying about his experience in the 2003 invasion of Iraq after admitting he was not in a helicopter that was forced to land after being hit by a rocket-propelled grenade.

Williams was suspended for six months with pay by NBC for his comments, yet it is interesting to note it is not the first time Williams lied about his experiences. Indeed, these incidents are so frequent that late-night talk shows joked about other experiences Williams lied about.

Of course, Williams is not the only journalist to lie about his experiences and he will not be the last.

Greg Grandin, a contributing writer at The Nation, highlighted how Bill O'Reilly assisted in covering up a war crime committed by the United States in El Salvador while working at CBS Nightly News. David Corn and Daniel Schulman later elaborated in Mother Jones on how O'Reilly exaggerated on his experience in a "war zone" in Argentina. In both situations, the journalists in question became the news story for other reporters. It certainly is irresistible to cover such story; however, what is lost is the role of journalism in general.

In fact, Grandin had emphasized this in his version of O'Reilly's lie and was frustrated it was ignored in the overall debate on O'Reilly.

"What is really annoying, however, is that my larger, and I think important point, about El Salvador's serving as a key moment in the post-Vietnam degeneration of war journalism gets completely lost. As does O'Reilly's cover-up, intentional or not, of war crimes," Grandin wrote.

This is an essential point in understanding the role of modern-day

journalism. Problems do exist, yet the solutions are either to fix it a little or ignore the overall issue.

To provide one example, journalist Antara Sinha of USA Today wrote how two-thirds of journalism majors are women. However, the majority of jobs in journalism are given to men. Even more disturbing, in a radio interview with journalist Sarah Jaffe in 2013, journalist and economic analyst Doug Henwood pointed out how the Wall Street Journal, years ago, blamed women for the decline of salaries in journalism.

There will certainly be more changes to the profession in the next few years as technology continues to change. Yet there needs to be a national discussion on the overall role of journalism in terms of ethics, reporting and the role of a journalist.

The only forum for that discussion right now is the laughably hypocritical "Advice for Young Journalist" hashtag on Twitter where both professional journalists and amateurs give advice to the new generation. This "advice" ranges from office etiquette to ethics to pure mean-spirited ageism.

Newsday sports writer Marc Craig added to the hashtag with a rash, hasty generalization.

"Ditch the hipster glasses, plaid shirts, and skinny jeans that make it seem as if you haven't eaten since Easter. #AdviceForYoungJournalists," he tweeted this month.

It seems like the profession, that is so seethingly critical of the generation that will replace them, needs to reevaluate their own behavior.

The truth remains unclear of whether this downward spiral in journalism will continue. We can only hope that journalists will strive to report news and not the corrupt nature of their own profession.

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Vigil honors lives lost at NC Chapel Hill

YARAH SHABANA

News Reporter

Queens College students honored the lives lost at Chapel Hill, North Carolina in a candlelight vigil on Feb. 18 with a wide attendance of students and faculty members.

Groups such as the Muslim Student Association, Project Sunshine and Amnesty International helped organize the event. Guest speakers included Afaf Nasher and Ibrahim Mossallem, both members of the Council on American-Islamic Relations.

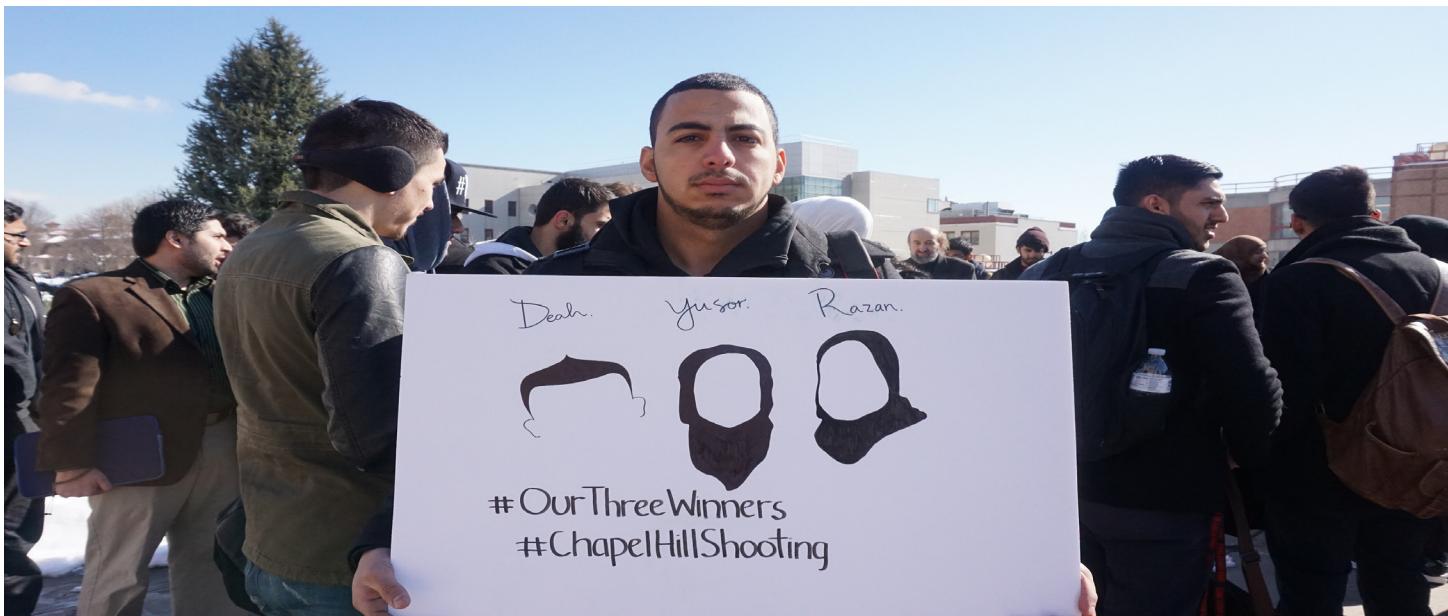
“Our parents came to this beautiful country to establish and give us opportunities they didn’t have from wherever they came from,” Mossallem said. “Now it’s on us, you’re all doing the right thing—educating yourselves. Don’t stop whether you’re 15 or 62, keep on educating yourself and understand how to make a difference in this world.”

Deah Barakat, Yusor Abu-Salha and Razan Abu-Salha were the three young Muslim students who were fatally shot on Feb. 10 near their apartment complex at Chapel Hill. Initially, there were claims about the murder committed over a parking dispute; however, reports later revealed the shooter was anti-religion and threatened the victims beforehand.

Muslims all around the world were outraged by this incident and the series of hate crimes that followed.

Just days after the murder, some Islamic centers and mosques in the U.S. were vandalized and, in some cases, burned down. Muslim women in the U.S. wearing the hijab were followed and threatened.

QC Muslim students were



Students united to pay their respects to the Deah Barakat, Yusor Abu-Salha and Razan Abu-Salha. The three were college students at the University of North Carolina and were fatally shot by Craig Stephen Hicks.

PHOTO BY YONGMIN CHO

cyber-bullied as well when news organizations such as Yahoo! News and the Associated Press posted their coverage of the vigil.

While some people continuously threatened Muslims, others defended Islam and promised the legacy of these three individuals would live on.

“We are not here today to contemplate hatred against certain people or certain institutions, but to remind each other the tragic consequences of hate despite whatever person. Hate does not discriminate. Once it takes place in one’s heart, it emerges anytime, anywhere, without any discrimination,” said Dr. Ali Mermer, chaplain of the Muslim Student Association.

All three victims were passionately active in their community and constantly aimed at developing theirs and others globally.

“As I look around, I see

people today from different religions, cultures, ethnicities, but what’s that one thing that unites all of us? Humanity,” Fatima Malik, founder of the Amnesty International chapter, said. “We live in a world surrounded by hatred and violence. But we cannot let our hatred overcome our humanity nor what happened to reoccur.”

At the vigil, a documentary of Bakarat’s journey to Palestine was shown, where she was helping those in need of medical care.

The speakers spoke about how passionate the victims toward the less fortunate.

“Together, Deah and Yusor were part of the team that founded the ‘United Muslim Relief’ which provides relief and aid to communities around the world. No matter what they did, or where they went, the intent to help those less fortunate always manifested itself in the actions of the three

of them.” Aadil Ilyas, President of Project Sunshine and Justice for Students in Palestine, said.

Khalil Noory, president of the Muslim Student Association, spoke about religious diversity in New York City, along with freedom of religion.

“We must strive to make America safe for all regardless of religious, racial and sexual orientation. These acts cannot be tolerated in a land as great as the U.S. and must be a shining example for the rest of the world. Our three winners spent a short amount of times in this world but left behind a tremendous legacy,” Noory said.

Toward the end of the event, students gathered near the Rosenthal Library for a candlelight ceremony in honor of the three victims. Quranic verses were recited and students placed their candles in the shape of a heart symbolizing togetherness

and mutual respect.

Students then signed an autographed book for the victims’ families. Donations can still be made to the Syrian Dental Relief Fund on youcaring.com in which Deah participated in largely. After the shootings, the fund surpassed its goal of \$20,000 by reaching more than \$400,000.

“While their murder was in fact senseless, we must remember today that we can still extract some sense from the example of their lives and even sense of their death,” Nasher said. “Are we going to use their deaths as an excuse to fill our own hearts with the same type of hate and ugliness that overwhelms their killer or are we going to use it as an inspiration?”

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Sexism runs rampant on Ratemyprofessors.com

FERNANDO ECHEVERRI

News Reporter

Using an interactive tool with data derived from ratemyprofessors.com, the reviews describing male and female professors showed gender bias depending on the word searched.

Benjamin Schmidt, assistant professor of history at Northeastern University, aggregated 14 million reviews from ratemyprofessors.com and created a search engine to see how words compared between professors depending on field and gender, concluding that certain positive words were descriptive of males more than females.

One of the most surprising results was the “spectrum from

smart to brilliant to genius, where each one of those is more strongly gendered male than the previous one was,” Schmidt told the New York Times.

Schmidt provided a list of words overrepresented in gender bias on his website. Words like funny, arrogant, and entertaining have a male gender bias while words like rude, sweet, unorganized, and terrible have a female gender bias.

The word “cool” is more commonly used for men than women, with the biggest difference being a difference of 72 mentions, with communication being the

highest field displaying bias

The word “worst” is more commonly used for female professors and most frequently found amongst engineering professors.

The study on gender bias in higher education is not new and is especially prevalent for women in the STEM fields, which include science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

A study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences in 2012, 127 science professors were told to analyze a hypothetical resume to hire a lab manager, evaluate their

credentials, suggest a certain salary and say how much they would mentor the student.

Half of the professors were given a male resume, the other a female, but both contained the same credentials.

At the end of the study, the scientists evaluated the hypothetical male as someone they would preferably hire and give a bigger salary.

Although the authors admitted there were large gaps in the study, the significant factor is how male and females perceive studies about bias.

“[M]any current STEM diversity

initiatives rest on the theory that exposing participants to evidence of gender bias will ultimately reduce bias and enhance diversity,” said Inside Higher Ed.

But, if the results of these studies produce a highly sexist, reactionary justification, then it might not be a means to reduce discrimination, said Inside Higher Ed.

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Club Spotlight on QC Environmental Club

CHRISTINA CARDONA

News Reporter

Queens College's Environmental Club is a student-run organization focusing on making the campus more eco-friendly and introducing the benefits of sustainability both on and off campus.

It was founded in 1998, said the QC website, and their main initiative is to spread awareness and make the world more livable, both for today and for future generations.

President Nicole Smith, Vice President Lisa Darrigo and Treasurer/Secretary Leah Goodman currently run the club. Their slogan is "Think Global Act Local."

"We are a group of young students in a generation that needs to take action now. We have the ability to use our voice to make a difference and spread awareness about global and local environmental problems," Darrigo, a junior majoring in environmental studies, said.

The clubroom is in the basement of the Student Union in room LL-19 where there are reusable glass bottles containing flowers placed all around the room. There is a basket for scrap paper, to promote reusing trash and reducing waste. There are maps and anti-hydrofracking signs that cover the walls and a large



PHOTO BY CHRISTINA CARDONA

The Environment Club focuses on a wide range of environment efforts, including hydrofracking.

plant on the floor. Brochures are on the table for curious students to pick up and browse.

"We need to raise more awareness about what's going on around us," Goodman, a senior double majoring in environmental studies and linguistics, said. "The fact that there is a debate about climate change is a part of the problem. To me it's a scientific fact, whether or not it exists shows that we need to be raising more awareness."

The theme of this semester is endangered species. The club

plans on going on a trip to the zoo to observe endangered species themselves. They also plan on having a movie screening of a documentary about endangered species sometime this semester.

"We are going to try to help monarch butterflies, bees and certain birds that are in trouble in our area, staying true to our slogan 'Think Global Act Local.' Many people think of endangered species as living in far away lands across oceans, but the problem is very real and very near," said Darrigo.

The club will take part in

Earth Week on campus and last year they hosted "Adopt a Plant," where they handed out mini-biodegradable pots and soil to students. Students could pick out the seeds for the plant they wanted and were able to take it home to raise. They plan to do it again this year, but with seeds that grow plants for hummingbirds, monarch butterflies and bees in particular.

QC is considered a 'Green College' as of 2012 and are included in "The Princeton Review's Guide to 322 Green

Colleges," said the QC's website.

"QC is such a strategic place to represent the green community. We have gardens and animals on this campus, and not a lot of campuses in Manhattan or Brooklyn have this," Darrigo said.

Darrigo and Goodman both agree that sustainability is important because of the limited amount of resources that are becoming scarce because of living standards. Goodman said communities should be sustainable now in order to make life better for future generations.

The club goes beyond typical socializing and recreation. Rather, its members are dedicated to a cause that will always affect the world.

"It's one of the only clubs that goes beyond what major you are or what ethnicity you are. The Environmental Club is all encompassing, we put aside any differences we have to come together and make the world better and help each other out," Goodman said.

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Muslim students dispel myths about Islam and extremism

JORDI SEVILLA

News Reporter

The recent attacks in Europe led to a resurgence of the role of Islam in relation to extremism.

On Jan. 7, gunmen, all Muslims, attacked the office of Charlie Hebdo in Paris, a French satirical magazine, which published controversial cartoons that concerned Islam. Twelve people were killed.

On Feb. 15, a shooting occurred in Copenhagen, the capital of Denmark, which resulted in the deaths of a security guard and a director.

Mahrukh Ahmed, secretary of the Muslim Students Association at Queens College, said the shooters involved in the attacks in Europe did not truly follow the faith.

"In the Koran, God says that when you face the ignorant people, when you face those who are doing evil or saying things to you, you have to respond with peace no matter what," Ahmed said.

"Even the Prophet Mohammad, in his life, he faced a lot of accusations, a lot of insults from the people, but yet he always responded in a positive way."

Ahmed specifically focused on the attacks in Paris as an example.

"We don't condone the actions of the man who killed the people of Charlie Hebdo, he should not have taken that approach. He should have spoken to them, sent them a letter or have a conversation, but never to go and kill them. He had no right to do that. Even in Islam, you can't just go and kill somebody, even if you disagree with them," Ahmed said.

She also discussed the topic of Islamophobia and the safety of Muslim students amidst the popularity of films like "American Sniper."

The movie portrays the life of Navy SEAL Chris Kyle on the front lines in the Middle East and

his struggles with PTSD after returning home. The film was adapted from Chris Kyle's own autobiography, which includes many Islamophobic, hate-filled quotes.

"I hate the damn savages," Kyle wrote. "I couldn't give a flying fuck about the Iraqis."

While the film doesn't necessarily show the darker side of Kyle, it still portrays a man with little regret for killing innocents. Activists worry that the film may spew further racism towards Muslims in the country. Ahmed commented on how she would react to someone influenced by "American Sniper" and other propaganda-like media.

"First, I would greet them with respect, and then I would tell them maybe you should review the facts from the proper source, you can't just rely on media and movies, these are things that can be distorted a lot. The media can be very biased; they can just show

what they want to show. Go to a mosque, speak to a Muslim, go online and look for Islamic sources," Ahmed said.

Ahmed explained Islamophobia is an irrational fear and that Muslims must respond against fears with peace. She states that films and people can install fear and can be indifferent to what happens to Muslims.

"Not just this film, but also people, like politicians, who are very Islamophobic, these are influential people. Whatever they say, the masses will take it. This is very dangerous because if they are spreading a lot of hate, especially irrational hate, it's going to install fear and hate in the people," Ahmed said.

Ahmed noted the murder of three Muslim college students at The University of North Carolina as an example where Islamophobia contributed to their deaths.

"They're college students just like us, and they were killed by this

Islamophobic man. It did cause fear in me and in many Muslims. Despite this fear, you have to keep responding in a positive way and constantly be a good role model in society," Ahmed said.

Ahmed suggested other schools have an Islamic Awareness Week, such as at QC, talking about Islam to students and Islamophobia.

MSA strives to create an environment for Muslims and spread awareness about Islam for more than 50 years.

Ahmed explained that the extremists should not have done what they did as they have misinterpreted the Koran.

"When the extremist do these type of actions, they're giving their own religion a bad name. You have to consider their upbringing. It shows they are not educated about their own faith, about their own religion," Ahmed said.

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Fifty Shades of Grey tortures viewers with the boring and cliché

CANDICE SAMUELS

News Reporter

Fifty Shades of Grey opened on Valentine's Day weekend and despite being number one at the box office and grossing over \$85,000,000, the wildly talked about film fell short of its sexually charged appeal - Unless you consider sexuality Dakota Johnson's breasts in almost every other scene, Jaime Dornan's backside and quick glimpses of both characters' pubic hair.

Based on the book series by E.L. James, Fifty Shades of Grey the feature film adaptation was directed by Sam Taylor Johnson. The female director's most famous work is the biographical musical drama film based on the life of John Lennon, Nowhere Boy.

The film leads viewers into the obscure, and inaccurate, world of BDSM including a variety of erotic practices involving dominance, submission, roleplaying and restraint.

Dakota Johnson plays Anastasia Steele, an English literature major in her last semester at the University of Vancouver. She meets the wealthy corporate executive Christian Grey, played by Dornan, by chance when she



Despite all the hype surrounding the controversial film Fifty Shades of Grey, it ends up into a disappointing mess.

fills in for her friend to interview him for her school newspaper.

The opening scene presents both character's personalities - or lack thereof. Ana's innocent awkwardness and frumpy attire is the polar opposite of the mysterious and meticulously dapper Christian.

It's evident that Christian is a control freak bordering on creepy stalker when he propositions Ana with a written contract to be his

submissive sex slave full of clauses that include no touching without permission and no sleeping together.

Ana is the naïve college student smitten by the handsome executive after their first encounter although she tries everything in her power to suppress her schoolgirl attraction she can't seem to shake Grey. Mainly because he seems to pop up everywhere Ana is without her even telling him of her

whereabouts - hence the stalker diagnosis.

The film's strongest aspects were not the mediocre sex scenes and use of cable ties, whips and blindfolds in the infamous Red Room of Pain, but the cinematography and soundtrack. Panoramic views of Seattle's skyline accentuated with classics from Frank Sinatra and Annie Lennox gave moments visual depth that the actors in the film

seemed to lack.

I won't ruin it for those who haven't seen it, even though it would be hard to spoil a film that's so incredibly dull and uses nudity as a ploy to get the audience excited.

Ana's innocent schoolgirl persona fades and she seems to adapt to the role of ignorant sex kitten quite easily. However, when Christian explores the true meaning of what it means to be his sex slave Ana is appalled and runs away. The movie closes with the cliffhanger of what will happen between the shocked Ana and the seemingly unbothered Christian who tries to run after her but somehow an elevator stops him. Coincidence? I think not.

There are talks that a "threequel" is in the making. Two more films before we find out if these two actually work out. That is if anyone even still cares by then.

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Students struggle with CUNY snow day policy

YONGMIN CHO

News Reporter

Many students looked out the window and called it a day, but Catherine Kim was determined to stay.

After her first class ended at 10:15 a.m., the senior hiked through the puddles of snow to the music library to get work done before her 5 p.m. class.

Snow, sleet and hail continued pour. She proceeded to check her email and the Queens College website every hour or so, to see whether or not classes were canceled only to be kept waiting till the last minutes.

Six hours and 45 minutes later, it was time start her lonely journey to Queens Hall. She checked one last time for email updates but received nothing.

"From the music library the snow looked really pretty, but, as I was walking to Queens Hall, I asked myself, 'why did I stay?' because no one was on campus," Kim said. "I was the only one walking to Queens Hall."

Several students walking out of Queens Hall told her that the school was closed but she had to confirm for herself. She checked again and received a class canceling email from her professor at 4:50

p.m. She then received an email from QC at 5:11 p.m. stating that classes after 5 p.m. were canceled. QC released the email update 11 minutes after the appointed time of the school closing. However, Facebook and Twitter notifications were sent out at 4:25 p.m., which informed them earlier than the email.

Kim does not actively use Facebook or Twitter on a daily basis and she thought the emails would have come in a timelier fashion.

"I was upset but I did get a lot of work done. I wasn't angry," Kim said. "I think I was more upset because they should have canceled the whole day. I actually had a nice commute. My buses connected very well but I know everyone else had horror stories."

The Facebook and Twitter updates not only consisted of appreciative comments from students, but also dismaying and sarcastic remarks from students who expressed their dissatisfaction of the communication system.

CUNY's central office is in close contact with the New York City Office of Emergency Management which aids CUNY to determine whether the entire university system-wide will remain



Even though Queens College students wish for snowdays, it is very difficult for the college to do it by themselves.

open or close in the events of severe weather conditions or emergencies.

At each individual colleges of CUNY, campus-specific decisions are made by the college leadership in consultation with CUNY on a case by case basis, Leanna Yip, Executive Director of the Office of Communications, said.

"When the decision is made, it is communicated immediately to all students, staff and faculty through a variety of different

channels," Yip said.

The QC website features a scrolling banner on the home page of the site, as well as a headline under the News and Announcements section. Detailed information is posted on the college's Emergency Preparedness Page. Notifications are posted on the college's Facebook page and sent out on Twitter. Emails are sent to all students, staff and faculty.

Yip encourages the college community to subscribe to CUNY

PHOTO BY AMANDA GOLDSTEIN

Alert, the university's emergency notification system that provides advice and information of an emergency via text, email, or voice message, "which is the most efficient means of disseminating critical information in the event of an emergency."

Students can subscribe to CUNY Alert through CUNY First.

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Report finds first 10 years of working determines lifetime earnings

BRANDON JORDAN

News Reporter

Growth in lifetime earnings are determined in the first ten years of a worker's life, said a new report from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York released in early February.

The report focused on the growth in average income earned over a lifetime for workers in the U.S. with a median worker earning a growth of 38 percent in their lifetime.

The authors of the report noted there is no other age starting point where there is such a large growth in earnings. In fact, "average earnings growth from ages 35 to 55 is zero."

Rebecca Chan, a junior, did not believe the study as she felt there was more involved in determine lifetime earnings.

"I would say [the first 10 years] do not determine it, it's mostly about the experience because when you're starting out you pretty much do any job you can get for experience," Chan said.

In fact, Chan said there are individuals who immediately obtain a significant amount of money despite not going to college or dropping out.

"There's those people who



A study by the Federal Reserve found the first 10 years determine the growth of income in the future.

PHOTO BY AMANDA GOLDSTEIN

either by luck or good fortune earn a lot of money early in their lives or what they think is sufficient and don't start or complete college because they think they can just work and make the money without education or with minimal education," Chan said. "So either it works out for them in the future or they end up with the worst salaries."

The report highlighted a difference of growth based on income individuals earn. For the top five percent, they experience a growth rate of 230 percent, while the top one percent experience

a growth rate of 1450 percent. Overall, in contrast to the rest of the population, the top 10 percent do not experience a drop in lifetime income.

"With the exception of those in the top 10 percent of the lifetime earnings distribution, all groups experience negative growth from ages 45 to 55. So, the peak year of earnings is strongly related to the lifetime earnings percentile," the authors wrote.

Franklin Rodriguez, a senior, believed the report did not provide any good news for

Millennials.

"It makes me really scared for my generation. I don't know if the study accounts for job outsourcing that we have experienced. If it does account for that, then I am scared," Rodriguez said.

Millennials, or Generation Y, are individuals born after 1980. The previous generation was Generation X, who were individuals born 1965 to 1980.

It may be difficult for Millennials to obtain a job with high earnings as the U.S. Census Bureau released a report in late

December highlighting one in five Millennials living in poverty. In Queens County, at least 15 percent of Millennials live in poverty.

Moreover, the report found 65 percent of Millennials are employed, which is down from 69 percent in 1980. In addition, the median earnings of Millennials working a full-time job, in 2013 inflation-adjusted dollars, was \$33,883, which is down from \$37,355 in 2000. In Queens County, Millennials earned \$38,791, which is down from \$44,572 in 1990.

Rodriguez felt, overall, Millennials are facing major obstacles that may grow worse in the future.

"I feel that my generation is getting the short end of the stick. We were raised in a recession that is compared to the Great Depression," Rodriguez said. "The price of undergraduate college is too expensive and, if we wish to continue on, it is even more expensive. I feel many in my generation have suffered and I do not know if it will get any easy for us anytime soon, if at all."

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ACADEMIC SENATE

SEEK (1 position)

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Graduate (1 position)

Undergraduate-Upper Junior/Senior (3 positions)

Undergraduate-Upper Sophomore/Lower Junior (3 positions)

Undergraduate-Freshman/Lower Sophomore (3 positions)

At-Large (8 positions)

STUDENT GOVERNMENT (President and Vice President)

FSDC - Faculty/Student Disciplinary Committee (6 positions)

NYPIRG – New York Public Interest Research Group (4 positions)

Nominations must be made electronically and submitted to the Elections Committee during the period starting 12:01 am on February 23, 2015 and ending at 12:01 pm on March 9, 2015 at the following web site:

<https://sl.qc.cuny.edu/qcelection/StudentAppIns.php>

SPORTS

Reasons to love Madison Rowland, the sophomore sensation

TORI BOWSER

Sports Reporter

The 1000th point club is composed of the most remarkably talented and hard-working athletes in their respectable sport. This season Queens College women's basketball team added one athlete who continues to turn heads in her career as a Lady Knight—Madison Rowland.

On Feb. 18, Rowland scored her 1000th point as a sophomore. It is a milestone which takes most athletes a full four-year career to complete. She joins the list of amazing QC athletes such as Amanda Bartlett and Shonda Holder.

"I was so ecstatic after the game. To get 1,000 points is an amazing accomplishment and I am so excited about it," Rowland said.

Rowland is currently at 1,025 points after a magnificent 65-55 win against LIU Post on Feb. 21.

Rowland hit the ground running in her freshman year with a spot on the All Metropolitan Team and All East Coast Conference First Team. In addition, she received awards such as ECC Rookie of the Year and Defensive Player of the Year. Rowland also led all freshmen in the nation in scoring and one of 13 players in the nation to record a triple double.

In the 2013-14 season, Rowland set a school record for with 522 single season points and 122 steals.

Rowland is not the first in her family to excel in collegiate athletics. Her mother ran Division I track at Boston University while her father led his team to a national championship while at SUNY Potsdam and later played in the NBA with the Milwaukee Bucks in the 1980s.

"My parents inspire me to be as

great as they are in every part of my life. I would not be here right now if I didn't have parents as great as mine," Rowland said.

Madison is accompanied by her sister Mackenzie, who is also on the team. The dynamic duo share an unbreakable bond, which started after teaming together since second grade in youth CYO leagues continuing to college. Mackenzie Rowland could not be happier to see her sister excel.

"I'm so happy for my sister. I want her to become the best possible," Mackenzie Rowland said.

Madison Rowland's strength lies in her athleticism and difficulty she presents to her opponents attempting to guard her. In this season alone, she holds a season-high of 35 points, nine rebounds and seven steals in a win at Concordia as well as a

remarkable performance at the Maggie Dixon Classic held at Madison Square Garden last month.

"She excels in cutting and reads the defense, as well as possessing quickness and ability to take open shots," Mackenzie Rowland told reporter Stephen Zerdelian.

Rowland's strong freshman statistics as well as her drive to win every time she laces up her sneakers, inspires others on the basketball whether on or off the court.

"Madison is a go-getter. Her competitiveness and determination motivates me to push myself. Even off the court she always knows how to make me laugh and so outgoing," Melissa Fumano, freshman and forward, said.

I've looked up to Madison as a player even before I came to Queens,"

Despite the massive achievements, the striving sophomore still faces obstacles. Having sprained both ankles this season, it is difficult to play at a high tempo.

"Not only is it painful, but it makes me timid to play as aggressive as I normally would," Rowland said.

As the road to championships wraps up, the team is currently in second place in the ECC with an overall record of 17-6 and moved to 12-4 in conference play after the win against LIU Post.

"I am confident in my team. We're playing great basketball right now and I know we will do great in playoffs," Rowland said.

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Lady Knights fencing team eyes place at upcoming regionals

ALBERT ROMAN

Sports Reporter

Queens College's Lady Knights fencing team defeated Yeshiva University to begin their season on Nov. 16 at The Matt Lampell Invitational.

According to the NCAA rules, there are only nine dates competitions can be scheduled on. Each month only includes one or two "duel meets". There could be up to three to six meets in a single day. This began around the early 1990s.

The season concludes with NCAA Regionals followed by Nationals, where the best college fencers compete.

Coach Greg Rupp is in his third season as head coach. Rupp hopes to have a few women representing QC in the Regionals this season.

"It's going to be an exciting regionals this time around. I think my team are contenders to try and get into the regionals," Rupp said.

Rupp is a 25-year veteran in the sport of fencing and understands the level of competition at these duel meets can be intense.

"Even though we are a Division II school we end up fencing Division I and Division III schools. We're fencing these top five ranked schools in the country that are Division I, unlike other sports where you're just playing Division II teams," Coach Rupp said.

Elizabeth Joa, a sophomore, knows there is more to fencing



PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHAEL BALESTRA

Queens College women's fencing team aims for the upcoming regionals where they hope to advance far against other colleges and universities.

than just the physical side to the sport.

"The toughest aspect of the sport is the mental aspect. Thinking about the strategies and how to get around the opponent's blade can be tough sometimes. As a fencer, I need to be able to quickly change my strategies and tactics," Joa said.

Fencing dates back to the 18th century. There are three different weapons used in fencing—the epee, saber and foil. A person, who fences with one weapon does not fence with another. They specifically train with their weapon.

"My favorite aspect of

fencing itself is getting to fence other fencers on the strip. Different fencers have different styles, techniques and strategies. So I like to observe and learn how to adapt to the different fencing styles," Joa said.

Each bout is won with five touches. Every school uses their three best fencers for each weapon. There are three bouts per person totaling 27 bouts. The first team to win 14 out of 27 is determined the winner.

In the team's first meeting against rival Hunter College, the Lady Knights defeated Hunter 14-13. In their second meeting of the season at home they were tied

13-13 heading into the final bout. Hunter took the deciding bout winning 14-13.

In general, when it comes to rivals, the Lady Knights have a few.

"Now LIU Post has a team and they are in Queens College's classic conference, the ECC, so we'll probably end up having a nice rivalry with them. There's always a little rivalry among CUNY [schools]. They are like fri-enemies type of thing, our closest friends and closest rivals," Rupp said.

Coach Rupp sees a bright future for the Lady Knight's fencing team.

"We're going to have a very strong team in the future. A lot of

them gained experience and a few have gone to the Regionals and done well. The fact most of them are going to be back means we are going to have an experienced team and are going to be dangerous next year," Rupp said.

The Lady Knight's next meet is the NCAA Regionals on March 8.

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KNIGHT NEWS SPORTS

SHE SHOOTS, SHE SCORES

Madison Rowland achieves 1,000 points in her career



Photo Courtesy of Michael Balestra

Knights lunge forward to success

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