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THE KNIGHT NEWS



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Breaking News & Video

Journalism in the Interest of the Queens College Community

QC GRADUATES AWARDED FULBRIGHT SCHOLARSHIPS



Three Queens College graduates, such as Patryk Perkowski (above), were offered the prestigious Fulbright program.

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Photo Courtesy of Patryk Perkowski

CUNY invests in
private prison industry
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Documentary highlights
immigration and technology
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EDITORIAL

A victory for one is a victory for all

The Knight News would like to congratulate the Women's Basketball team for its ECC Championship. It is their first championship since 2009. The game came down to the wire with the team defeating the NYIT Bears 65-63.

Things were looking bleak at the end of the first half with the Lady Knights trailing by 16 points. It took a total team effort to rally back. Led by Eastern Conference Player of the Year Madison Rowland, they outscored the Bears 42-24. Madison had a double-double with 38 points and 13 rebounds. She earned the Most Valuable Player Award.

With the victory, the Knights have secured a spot in the NCAA Division II Women's Basketball. They are the fifth seed in the East Region of the tournament. Back in 2009 the Lady Knights were eliminated in the first round. The team looks to turn this fortune around and advance deep into the bracket.

Queens College's next game is March 13 against Stonehill College in round 64 at Adelphi University.

Athletics are a big part of the college experience. This month in particular is known as "March Madness." It's a time where students should be coming out in groups to cheer on their Lady Knights, yet this isn't the case. Indeed, the lack of genuine support is puzzling considering the size of Queens

College.

The reasons are plenty for this with reasons ranging from apathy to students often unaware of certain sports teams.

This is an exciting time for the women's basketball team as they potentially could advance far into the NCAA Division II tournament. The last time they even entered into the tournament was 2009 so it is worth following their efforts.

Still, we think it is best to show solidarity with not only sports teams on campus, but clubs as well.

There is a reason why the motto of Queens College is "we learn so that we may serve." It is because what we learn helps us in serving others through anyway. Following sports teams and offering a sense of support is just an example of that.

When we reported on the fencing team last issue, we discovered a new world full of students with stories to tell. We're confident more student-athletes can talk to us about their unique experiences in their teams for future issues.

We're not asking Queens College students to immediately drop everything their doing and go to every game of every team on campus. Rather, when there is a victory, like the women's basketball recently accomplished, it is best to give support for them through any means possible.

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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QC graduates honored with Fulbright honors and awards

CANDICE SAMUELS

News Reporter

Queens College Macaulay Honors graduates were among the 2014-2015 recipients for the highly competitive Fulbright U.S. Student Program.

The program is the largest U.S. exchange program offering grant opportunities for students and young professionals. Once inducted, students participate in international graduate study, advanced research, university teaching and primary and secondary school teaching worldwide.

"It's a wonderful program that allows students to be immersed in another culture and allows them to devote full time to a research project, earning a master's degree or teaching English overseas," Moira E. Egan, national fellowships advisor at QC, said.

"Students serve as ambassadors for the us. Through academic and cultural exchange, Fulbright's mission is to increase international understanding and fosters American students' knowledge of other countries."

Karla Padawer Solomon and Chloe Weiser won Fulbright awards in the Master's Institutions category.

Solomon, a psychology major who volunteered with the New York Deaf-Blind Collaborative -dedicated to improving services for deaf-blind youth - now resides in Spain. Weiser, an English and



PHOTO COURTESY OF PATRYK PERKOWSKI
Patryk Perkowski, a recent QC grad, declined the Fulbright scholarship and joined the Federal Reserve of San Francisco.

anthropology major, who tutored for four years at Queens College's Writing Center, is in the Czech Republic.

Both are spending 10 months abroad promoting cultural exchange and language skills.

In addition, the program awards approximately 1,900 grants annually in all fields of study and operates in more than 140 countries worldwide.

Patryk Perkowski, last year's

class valedictorian, also won a Fulbright grant, but turned it down when he was offered a job at the Federal Reserve Bank in San Francisco.

"I knew I wanted to become a professor, but I wasn't ready for grad school yet. I thought it would be beneficial to take some time off after graduation," Perkowski said. Perkowski majored in economics and mathematics while at QC. Currently, he works as a research associate at the Federal Reserve,

which he enjoys.

"As a research associate I assist economists in producing academic research and monetary policy tasks. It was a tough decision to pick between both opportunities but my position at the Federal Reserve gives me so much insight of what it truly means to be an economist," Perkowski said.

"The job prepared me for the major commitment and dedication required to obtain a

PhD. From this experience I know I really want to be an economist." Like most competitive scholarship programs, a strenuous application process is required.

"The application process was time consuming," Perkowski said. "There are two intensive personal statement essays with strict word count limits. You also need three letters of recommendation and responses to a number of short answer questions."

Fortunately for QC students, Egan assists students in all aspects of the application process.

"I work with students to help them identify which fellowships might be good for them to apply for and also assist with the application process," Egan said. "I advise them on their essays and about choosing recommendations so that their academic and work history fully addresses the fellowship's requirements."

In addition to helping students find financial support for their education, the Office of Honors and Scholarships, located in Honors Hall Room 16, provides advisement for honors programs and merit-based awards.

An information session on the Fulbright program will take place on March 30 during Free Hour in Honors Hall Room 17.

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CUNY professors and staff remain without contract after 5 years

BRANDON JORDAN

News Reporter

All employees of CUNY, from professors to staff members, are still working without a contract as negotiations continue to stall. The last contract was conceived in 2006 and lasted until 2010. CUNY officials pledged to make a deal last semester, but nothing came of it.

Francis Clark, communications director of the Professional Staff Congress, said CUNY faculty and staff need a contract in order to help both professors and students.

"CUNY is in danger of not being able to offer the rich education our students deserve. The faculty and professional staff represented by the PSC have worked for four years without a contract and five years without a contractual raise," Clark said. "CUNY salaries, once able to attract the best professors, are now

far below those of comparable public institutions."

The PSC is a local union of the American Federation of Teachers and represents more than 25,000 faculty and staff throughout CUNY. It formed in 1972 in the midst of strikes.

At least 9,000 faculty members signed a petition earlier this year calling for a new contract immediately.

The union demands not only pay raises, but also restructured workloads for full-time faculty, a permanent paid parental leave program and other benefits.

At a CUNY board of trustees meeting on Jan. 26, PSC President Barbara Bowen told the board about the urgency of a new contract and pledged to "escalate our campaign this spring in every way necessary until a fair, progressive contract settlement is

reached."

"We doubt that any of you would work at your positions for 5 years without a raise, and you clearly did not expect a chancellor to work at the pay rate of 2009," Bowen wrote. "Why, then, should we?"

A report from the Fiscal Policy Institute on Dec. 2 highlighted the difficulties New York City residents experience in sustaining themselves with the cost of living. A household made up of one adult and a preschooler in Queens would need \$59,502 to sustain themselves, which is significantly higher than the cost of living in the Bronx, Brooklyn and Staten Island.

Adjunct professors earn \$2,900 per course and are not guaranteed a job the following semester. Moreover, adjuncts account for 59 percent of the

CUNY faculty yet earn nearly one-fourth less than full-time faculty, said the CUNY Adjunct Project.

CUNY Chancellor James Milliken spoke in Albany last month and emphasized the importance of support from state and city officials for contract negotiations.

"An important part of this effort, of course, involves discussions with the Governor's office and the Mayor's office as has been the case in the past. We hope the state, to a lesser degree the city, will provide support for this highest university priority," Milliken said. "Being competitive for faculty and staff is essential to this university and the people it serves as well as the funding of that obligation has a great deal to do with CUNY's ability to provide access and high quality."

Milliken noted he would

seek retroactive pay raises for professors in light of the expiration of the last contract.

Bowen, in her testimony to the state Senate's Finance Committee and the Assembly Ways and Means Committee on Feb. 10, stressed the importance of a new contract. She said the lack of investments from CUNY led to the rise of adjuncts. Thus, there was an immediate need for a new contract.

"[They] are not the smiling faces you see in CUNY's subway ads, but they are doing the bulk of the teaching, especially of the highest-needs students. That is no way to run a university," Bowen said.

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New app offers emotional support for anonymous users

NINA BAKOYIANNIS

News Reporter

7 Cups of Tea is a free emotional support app seeking to put counseling services in the hands of individuals nationwide.

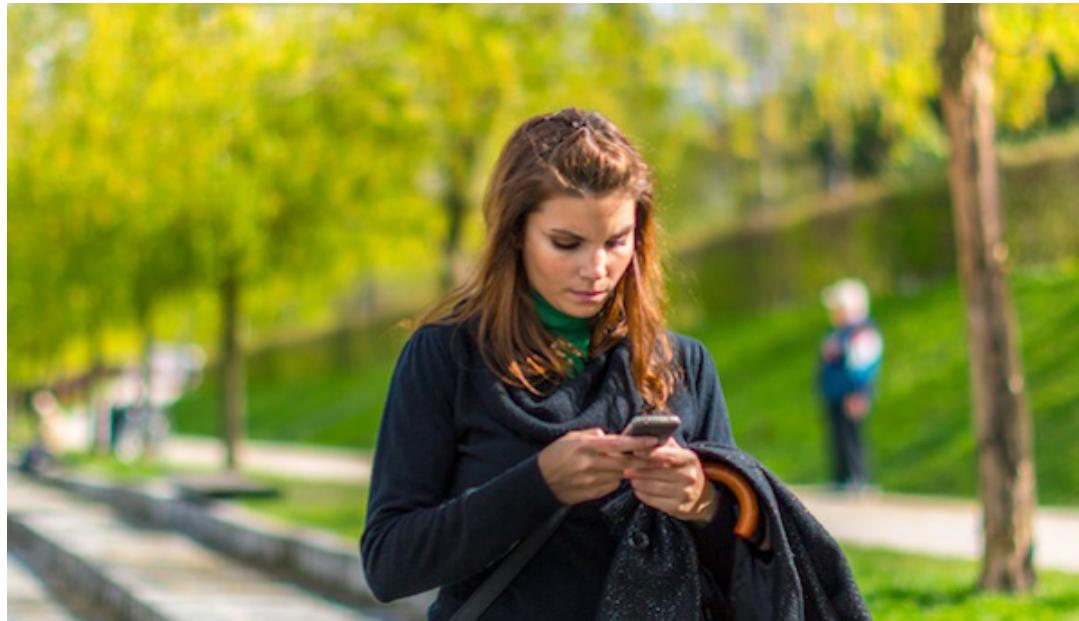
Launched last July by psychologist Glen Moriarty, the app connects users with nonjudgmental listeners trained in discussing issues such as anxiety, depression and eating disorders.

So far, it's used in 150 countries, features 130 languages and, on average, hosts 85,000 conversations per week.

"The basic, overall goal is to help people know that they are not alone, that we all struggle and Seven Cups is a place where all people are accepted and belong," Moriarty said.

Through the support of Y Combinator, an investment company that funds start-ups, the app was designed to be completely anonymous so individuals can talk without fear of judgment. They also recently released an emotional wellness and depression test.

"I think it's a great platform considering the fact that people don't talk about their issues because of the fear of being judged. So to be able to talk to someone sincerely and feel supported is pretty awesome. I think a lot of



7 Cups of Tea is a new app students can use for emotional support and to cope with mental illnesses like depression.

people could benefit from this," junior Oyin Falana said.

According to a Psych Central report, 44 percent of American college students experience symptoms of depression and over two-thirds of young people do not talk about or seek help for mental health problems.

With cost being a huge barrier for individuals to seek mental health support, Seven Cups of Tea provides free, innovative support to those who are unable to

get the services they need.

All listeners must complete an "Active Listening" training program, an online course in advanced skills for compassionate communication. The extensive training process involves watching course videos, participating in mock conversations and going through 242 different levels to unlock badges for each training session completed.

The inspiration for the app came from Dr. Moriarty's own

PHOTO COURTESY OF iSTOCK

PHOTO BY JORDI SEVILLA personal experiences. He wanted to create a medium for those who simply wanted to vent at their convenience.

"I was thinking about offline behaviors that haven't yet moved online. For example, dating was once a behavior that occurred offline and then it moved online," Moriarty said. "While I was researching this, I was talking to my wife who's a therapist about a personal problem. I thought to myself, 'I'm so thankful Nikki is

a therapist. What do people do who do not have a therapist for a spouse?' It was then that it struck me."

Plans for the future of Seven Cups of Tea include streamlining the app, for quicker service, and working on a growth plan feature, which would educate users about short, simple steps to help them cope.

"To be honest, I've realized I've been too trustworthy in my life and it hasn't ended well for me. I think that this app will allow people to freely discuss what's on their mind without feeling judged because they don't know them personally," said junior Catherine Donohoe. "I can't wait to start using it. I'm sure it will take some of the stress in my life away from me."

Students can check out this service by either going to www.7cupsoftea.com or downloading the app on their smartphones.

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Save the Date!

CUNY financially tied to private prison industry

FERNANDO ECHEVERRI AND BRANDON JORDAN

News Reporter

CUNY invests thousands of dollars into private prison companies, said documents obtained by CUNY Private Prison Divest through a Freedom of Information Act request.

The documents revealed CUNY invested \$275,200 in total in private prisons as of September 2014. It invested \$248,900 in G4S, one of the top private prisons in the U.K. Moreover, it invested \$13,300, \$8,400 and \$4,600 in Corrections Corporations of America, GEO Group Inc. and Aramark, respectively.

A private prison operates as a contractor for governmental agencies to house inmates in either public or private jails. Its use surged in the 1980s due to overcrowding, a result of the War on Drugs.

This new information gave legitimacy to CUNY Private Prison Divest's claims, said Arlene Cornejal and Nancy Uddin, core members of the group.

"We requested the FOIA report so that we could receive actual proof of these investments that were taking place. We knew that a lot public institutions are investing in companies that uphold the prison industrial complex," Cornejal and Uddin said.

CUNY Private Prison Divest was created in response to the problems of for-profit prisons, specifically because of the disproportionate incarceration of people of color. Indeed, a study from Oregon State University last August found black and Hispanic inmates were overrepresented in private prisons.

"As a student[s] of color attending a public university, [We] think it is important to be in solidarity with people in prison who are constantly hurt by the injustice system and this is why we need to demand our institution to stop investing in racism," Conejal and Uddin said.

More than 53 percent of students that identify as black or Hispanic made up CUNY's fall 2013 student body, said the CUNY Office of Institutional Research and Assessment.

CUNY works with Cambridge Associates, a company that provides "investment consulting, independent research and performance monitoring," said the Cambridge Associates' firm description.

Michael Arena, director for



PHOTO COURTESY OF iSTOCK
CUNY holds investments in for-profit prisons like Corrections Corporations of America and GEO Group, which are controversial due to their policies and structure.

communications and marketing for CUNY, said the investments made by CUNY are used for student scholarships. Last year, the university used nearly \$2.5 million from its investments to help enable "nearly seven of ten full time undergraduates to attend tuition free."

"To ensure that this vital source of scholarship money remains available for deserving students, the University utilizes Cambridge Associates to recommend and advise on the selection of several fund managers," Arena said.

Furthermore, Arena highlighted how small the investments were in relation to the rest of the holdings.

"As of Sept. 30, 2014, G4S represented 0.1 percent of CUNY's investment pool. GEO Group represented 0.003 percent of the CUNY investment pool," Arena said.

Brian Sonenstein, a journalist covering criminal justice and prisoners' rights for Firedoglake, said there are multiple problems with private prisons.

"It's a massive misuse of taxpayer dollars that otherwise could be invested in community justice alternatives instead of incarceration, it reduces the government's accountability for prisoners and some research would suggest it actually increases recidivism," Sonenstein said. "Finally, it breeds a self-perpetuating cycle of crime and poverty in families and

communities from which prisoners are drawn."

Sonenstein stressed that private prisons focus on one important thing – profit.

"But, on a fundamental level, the problem with private prisons is the profit motive. Corrections Corporation of America, [for example], is a business first and foremost. It exists to make a profit. It has shareholders, like schools such as CUNY, demanding it do so," Sonenstein said.

Private prisons profit from overpricing inmate commissaries, which include food, clothing and hygiene products bought with their own money, privatizing inmate communications and controlling medicine by changing or canceling prescriptions, according to Sonenstein.

Moreover, they hire people with minimal experience in order to pay them less, understaff prisons and overwork their employees, which results in a breeding ground for violence.

For-profit prisons enter contracts with state and federal governments, where beds must be filled between 90 and 100 percent capacity. In turn, as documented in a report by the Committee on Causes and Consequences of High Rates of Incarceration, they "expended substantial effort and resources in lobbying for more punitive laws and for fewer restrictions on the use of prison labor and private prisons."

Groups like CUNY Private

Prison Divest are not alone in their efforts. Students at Columbia University and University of California at Berkeley rallied for divestment in private prisons in 2014. At Berkeley, a student resolution was passed to stop the college from investing in private prisons.

Columbia Prison Divestment, a similar group, discovered last September how their college owned \$8 million and \$2 million worth of shares in CCA and G4S, respectively. They found such figures after obtaining a breakdown of 10 percent of the university's investments, said The Columbia Daily Spectator.

Arena stressed investments were not made on an individual basis, but part of Russell Investments's Russell 3000 Index, which, according to the firm, represents "98 percent of the investable U.S. equity market."

"CUNY's investments do not involve individual stock purchases, but rather purchases in funds that hold basket of stocks. For example, one of the funds reflects the holdings of the Russell 3000, an index fund that is passively managed. Because expenses are generally lower for index funds such as the Russell 3000 Index, more of the earnings can be reinvested for greater returns to fund scholarships," Arena said.

CUNY Private Prison Divest formed recently, but it aims to raise issues involving private prisons across CUNY campuses.

"We've primarily focused our work so far on building awareness around this issue in our respected campuses. However, we do strategically plan out on calling out CUNY for its investment in private prisons that allow for the mass incarceration and criminalization of black and brown people," Cornejal and Uddin said.

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Students share relationship insight at college dating panel

CHRISTINA CARDONA
News Reporter

The Queens College Women's Center held an event called "Real Talk: College Dating" in which a diverse panel of college students talked about what dating and relationships mean to them on Feb. 25.

The event started off with introductions from Isioma Ononye, the secretary of the Women's Center and a senior English major, sitting in the front of the classroom along with nine other students on the panel.

"We are a community of girls who want to educate and empower members with discussions, seminars, lectures, community service and career workshops," said Ononye about the Women's Center.

She stressed that this room and event was a safe space and that everyone needed to be respectful to the people on the panel and what they said.

A question box went around the room and students in the audience were able to write their questions on a piece of paper that would be answered at the end of the panel.

The first topic was about the hook up culture. Ononye asked the panel whether it is possible to meet somebody in college and have a meaningful relationship



Students listened to the experiences of others on dating while in college, what is attraction and more. PHOTO BY CHRISTINA CARDONA

or if it's more likely to meet people who are only interested in engaging in sexual activity.

"It all depends on the personality of the people involved, if you're interested in meaningful relationships you can find it," said Leah Goodman, a senior who is in a relationship. "I don't think it has to do with college as much as it has to do with people."

The next topic that was who approaches whom: guy or girl?

"A lot of the time we get in our own heads and you end up telling yourself no rather than them saying no and that's not

really a good way to live," said Kurt Holness, a single graduate student.

A member of the audience asked the panel how this works in the gay community.

"If I like someone, I just go for it and give it a shot," said Ceara Olsen, who is bisexual and currently in a relationship with a woman. "Men and women, we're all equal and if I could lesser the pressure and do it myself I think it's a nice gesture."

Anthony Hargraves, a senior who is gay and single, agreed with Olsen and said that if you like someone you should go for it.

"People feel that these particular gender roles are supposed to prescribe who says something to someone first," said Hargraves. "If you like someone you should let them know you're interested."

The next question for the panel was if physical attraction was a deal breaker.

"Initially, I would find someone appealing to my eyes first and their personality is the sun through the clouds," said Anastasia Neree, a single sophomore.

Lionel Yu, a senior in a long-term relationship with Victoria

Tan, another panel member, said that physical attraction is not the only important factor.

"You're always attracted to the physical part but eventually you look past it," said Yu. "If you guys don't connect mentally, it means nothing at the end of the day."

Another topic was about sex and whether or not it's an important part of a relationship. The panel brought up topics such as sexual compatibility, cheating, pre marital sex and the emotional aspect of sex.

The event concluded with a reading of the questions in the question box. Tiffany Edwards, president of the Women's Center, read out the questions.

Some questions that the audience asked were, "How did you come out of the closet?" and "How do you feel about dating someone you don't see a future with?"

The entire event created an open forum for students to share their experiences and learn a little bit for future dating endeavors.

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ANITHA RAJ "Step Up to Tackle the Myths." President of ARAR Technology and board director of Women in Technology, Raj holds degrees in computer science and business management, and has published white papers on a variety of technology topics. She is an ambassador for women and girls in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) industries.



KATHERINE CROSS "Ethics for Cyborgs." Cross researches gender in virtual space, focusing on the social dynamics that animate online harassment. Her work has appeared in *Women's Studies Quarterly*, *Loading: The Journal of the Canadian Games Studies Association*, and *First Person Scholar*. She has a weekly column in *Feministing*, and writes widely on gaming and gaming culture. She serves on the board of Feminist Frequency.



AMANDA FILIPACCHI "Wikipedia's Gender Problem." Described by the *New York Times* as a "lovely comic surrealist," Filipacchi is the author of the novels *Nude Men*, *Vapor*, and *Love Creeps*. Her writing has appeared in the *New York Times*, *New Yorker*, *Wall Street Journal*, and the *Atlantic*, and has been included in *Best American Humor* and other anthologies.



Photo: Elliot Ross © 2012

ELLEN ULLMAN "Dispatches from the (Male) Culture of Software Programming." A former software engineer, Ullman is the author of *Close to the Machine*, *The Bug: A Novel*, and the novel *By Blood*. Her essays have appeared in *Harper's*, the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, *Wired*, and the *American Scholar*. Her writings explore the effects of technology on civil society and on an individual's internal life.



MIKKI KENDALL "Social Justice, Social Media, and Stalking." Kendall is a writer and "occasional feminist" whose writing can be found at *XO Jane*, *Salon*, NPR's *Code Switch*, the *Guardian*, and other places willing to let her rant. She commits occasional acts of fiction largely focusing on black people in every situation under the sun and a few under undefined celestial bodies. She often can be found on Twitter as @karnythia.



HOLLY JACOBS "Nonconsensual Pornography and the Cyber Civil Rights Initiative Combatting It." Founder, president, and executive director of Cyber Civil Rights Initiative (CCRI), which advocates for technological, social, and legal innovations to fight online abuse. Jacobs holds a PhD in industrial/organizational psychology. CCRI has supported more than 2,000 online harassment victims worldwide, helped pass criminal "revenge porn" laws, and enlisted lawyers to help victims.

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Students of undocumented parents beat out M.I.T. in robotics competition

JORDI SEVILLA

News Reporter

A documentary was presented at Queens College concerning the challenges minority students face in the U.S., while striving to achieve academic success.

Underwater Dreams is about how a team of Mexican students, children of undocumented workers, from Carl Hayden High School in Phoenix, Ariz., managed to defeat prestigious colleges, including M.I.T., at a robotics competition in 2004. The documentary also follows their journeys after their victory.

This film touches on issues

regarding immigration including the implications and continuing conversation around the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Act, ballot measures restricting undocumented students from receiving in-state tuition in certain states and policies affecting the ability of undocumented students to seek employment after college.

The film was presented by the CUNY Service Corps and hosted by Cesar Oyervides-Cisneros, the manager of Service Corps at QC. A discussion panel followed, moderated by Associate Professor at the Departments of Sociology and Anthropology

Anahi Viladrich.

In order to gain state support, the high school decided to enter a college level robotics competition, sponsored by NASA and the Office of Naval Research, among other organizations.

"I was sure we were going to lose," one of the Carl Hayden science teachers said.

The team used tools from Home Depot to make a robot that could respond to commands underwater. They encountered various problems, including leakage. The team utilized unique solutions, including using tampons to absorb the water

leaking into the robot.

The team passed all phases of the competition, ultimately being awarded first place.

Their victory inspired other students to participate in leadership roles and work in their community.

"For the Carl Hayden team, robotics was never just about building a robot. It was about building a culture of taking responsibility and giving back," the narrator said.

Current challenges facing undocumented workers are laws such as Proposition 300 that targets undocumented

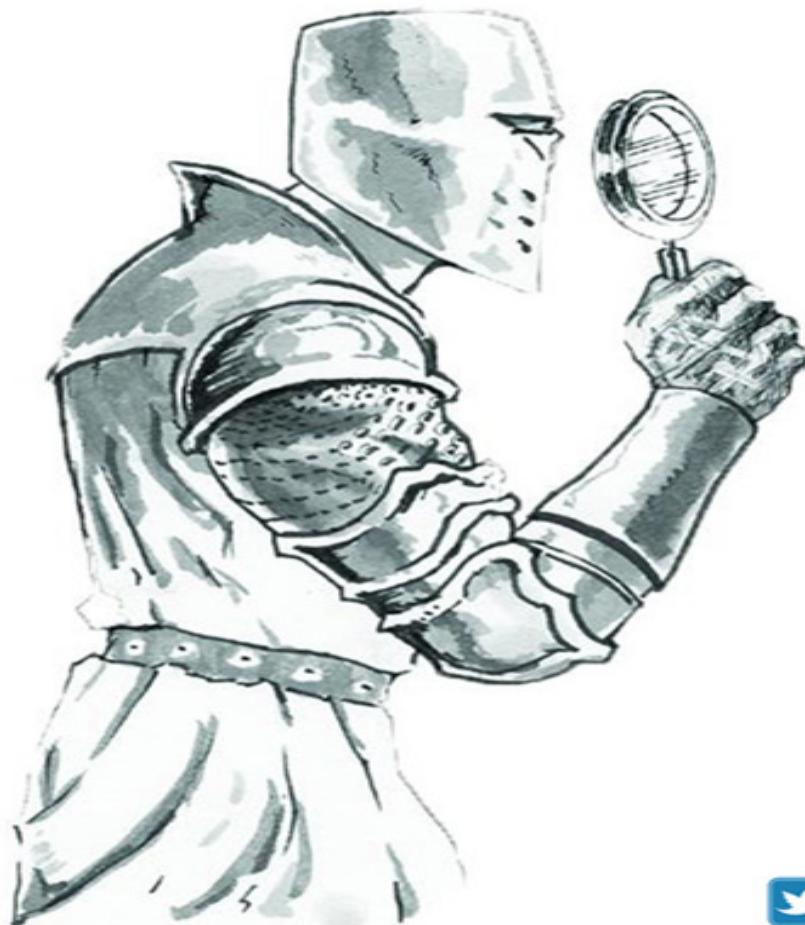
immigrants in Arizona. Restrictions include removing state assistance to attend college.

"Just knowing you can't do something because you're like a piece of paper is pretty devastating," one of the team members said.

The team has influenced other students to participate in academics as well as fight for the chance to gain a quality education and employment."

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NYPIRG rallies in Albany on Higher Education Day

VICTOR HILLERGREN

Sports Reporter

After traveling for hours, more than 300 students throughout New York gathered in Albany on Higher Education Day, Feb. 26, to meet with representatives to discuss college investment.

The trip, organized by New York Public Interest Research Group and supported by state public colleges, enabled students to meet with elected officials and representatives of their districts to present their views and show their support.

“It’s a great opportunity for both students to express their support as well as for politicians to see how many students are in support and just how important higher education is to us,” said Tiffany Brown, project coordinator at Queens College NYPIRG.

NYPIRG, established in 1973 at Queens College, is a non-partisan, not-for-profit student-directed research and advocacy organization with primary concerns for environmental protection, consumer rights, government reform and more.

The trip was solely focused on higher education. 16 NYPIRG chapters throughout the state along with Dream Team and SEEK leaders were in attendance.

A rally and orientation began before students met with elected officials. Professional Staff Congress President Barbara Bowen fired students up with an education rally chant where students chanted, “Education is a right, fight, fight, fight!” in the capitol building.

University Student Senate Chairperson Aileen Sheil and



PHOTO COURTESY OF NILY ROZIC
QC’s NYPIRG chapter and SA President Raj Maheshwari (right) talked to state representatives in Albany about college investments on Higher Education Day.

Vice Chairperson Lucas Almonte gave open orientation speeches to students about the day ahead of them. Queens College NYPIRG Project Coordinator Tiffany Brown informed students how the day was going to go, how to push for The Dream Act and advice for meeting with legislators.

“We would like to see more funding, more students graduating and being able to land a great job where they can pay off their debt,” Brown said.

Due to many lawmakers attending the state assembly at once, many students met with a director or staff member rather than a lawmaker.

The Dream Act, which allows undocumented students in the state to receive financial

aid from the Tuition Assistance Program, was one of the biggest issues on Thursday’s agenda. Despite Governor Andrew Cuomo including act in his executive budget, many politicians are against it because it takes money away from other governmental funding.

TAP reform was also a major topic as many faculty members spoke about TAP, its uniqueness and why it needs to expand. The max award for TAP as of today is \$5,165, which is less than tuition. NYPIRG, along with other student leaders and supporters, want it increased to \$6,500 to keep up with inflation.

Students across the state advocated for an increase in CUNY and SUNY funding, including

NYPIRG Environmental Campaign Project Leader Anik Nath.

“[We need] more funding for teaching hospitals, more funding to generate student success, which would mean more trained doctors. The more trained doctors we have would solve the doctor shortage issue with more health care providers,” Nath said.

Darren Fignole, a student leader, believed the event was successful put it as it was as there was a “good turnout, especially for students.”

“It’s great because we have hundreds of students who all believe in the same things as each other. Interns and even some lawmakers relate to us because they are or once were CUNY students,”

Fignole said.

Higher Education Day, overall, felt like a success to students and student groups.

“We got to see how things work out in the ‘belly of the beast,’” Amir Khafogy, project leader for NYPIRG at QC, said. “It’s not so often you get to see how things are run in the state capitol.”

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“Year of South Africa” panel sheds light on the fight against apartheid

ARYEH GELFAND

News Reporter

A group of students and community members gathered on Feb. 23 at the Godwin-Ternbach Museum to talk about apartheid from a variety of perspectives.

The gathering was part of the “Year of South Africa” at Queens College. It is part of a series of events surrounding the current exhibition at the museum, “The Collection of Violet and Les Payne & Next Generation: Emerging Photographers From South Africa.”

“The Payne collection is focused on works on paper and paintings by artists from the black township of Soweto, Johannesburg,” the Godwin-Ternbach Museum said

on their website.

This exhibition seeks to highlight works of art created by members of the disenfranchised African community during apartheid in South Africa.

Les Payne, collector of the art and a former journalist for Newsday in the 1970s, spoke first. He said he was first inspired to cover the story of the South African community’s plight under the laws of apartheid after hearing about the shooting of Hector Peterson, a 13-year-old fatally shot during a protest against the regime.

Payne spoke about how his race gave him access to the African population that was closed off from the

white community. It was a perspective that no white reporter could give.

The next speaker was Satadru Sen, a professor in the history department. Sen worked in New York as an activist against apartheid. He was a member of the African Committee on Africa, an organization that fought to popularize sanctions and divestment against the South African government.

Sen emphasized the widespread support amongst the countries that led to adoption of the sanctions. He also elaborated on how unions, churches, banks and politicians on both sides of the political spectrum came together on sanctions. It led up to the Anti-Apartheid Act of 1986, which

implemented sanctions against South Africa.

The final member of the panel was Richard Wright, a professor of Indian studies at QC. Wright gave a historical overview of the foreign policy aspects of apartheid.

Wright also explained Western support of apartheid in South Africa. He stressed how the Cold War led the U.S. to bolster relations with South Africa until the 1980s.

After the fall of the Soviet Union, however, the U.S. supported the African National Congress, which included Nelson Mandela.

The event was an important part of the work the African Activist

Project does in preserving the history of anti-apartheid groups in the U.S.

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SPORTS

QC baseball team hopes to strike out 16-year playoff drought

VICTOR HILLERGRÉN

Sports Reporter

After spending months in the weight room, the Queens College men's baseball team was anxious to get out and start playing ball.

The season was scheduled to begin on Feb. 28. However, due to inclement weather, the away game in Virginia was canceled. In fact, many games across the country were cancelled, especially in the northeast.

"At this point, the significance would be to get outside and play some ball," Coach Chris Reardon said.

Starting on March 7, the Knights were scheduled to compete at Franklin Pierce University, but this game was postponed as well.

The team's season finally began on March 8 with a loss to Franklin Pierce University in both games of the doubleheader.

Located in Rindge, New Hampshire, just north of Massachusetts, Franklin Pierce rank number 9 overall in Division II. This doesn't seem to faze Reardon and his Knights, and despite their competitive schedule they are up for the challenge.

"If you want to be the best, you have to beat the best," Coach Reardon said.

Although the Franklin Pierce field is made of turf — making it easier to play and clean — Reardon described it as "a unique and interesting site."

The immediate goal for the team is to make the playoffs, which is something that they



PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHAEL BALESTRA

Joe Paparella, senior, is a veteran the men's baseball team and says he would play "wherever the team needs me."

haven't done since 1998. At the time, QC was the best team in the conference and won the conference tournament with Reardon playing as a pitcher.

Despite changes over the years with different rules and regulations, like the use of aluminum bats as opposed to wood, Coach Reardon sees some similarities between the title team of 1998 and this year's players.

"2015's defense is comparable to the 1998 team. The pitching staff also looks solid. Offense is also key, but defense and pitching is what

wins championships in America's pastime," Coach Reardon said.

Coming off a poor year in 2014, the team is faced with a number of challenges this year, including 17 new players on the roster. However, Reardon feels comfortable about this. He said there are "quite a few new guys who can make an immediate impact."

The new recruiting class looks to veteran utility player Joe Paparella, senior, for guidance. Paparella is an enthusiastic and elaborate small-ball baseball player who brings veteran fielding skills

and leadership to the young team.

Paparella, 22, discussed his role on the team. Capable of playing shortstop, third base and second base - although, not all at the same time- Paparella plays "wherever the team needs me," he said.

While Paparella isn't the loudest guy on the team, he does lead by example. The senior shares tips and ideas with the younger players by demonstrating his diverse fielding skills and ability to play multiple positions. He does all this while also batting to the top of the order.

This talented, young team consists of "good students who get good grades and are a good overall group of guys who mesh well together," Reardon said.

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Attention students, faculty and staff!

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in any major stories affecting your or your club

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SPORTS

Womens Lacrosse: Starting Fresh and Ready to Win

TORI BOWSER

Sports Reporter

Last year, the Queens College Women's Lacrosse team entered the 2014 season with only six girls on its roster, mostly containing players from other various sports.

In his first season, head coach Todd Kaiser was faced with the obstacle of finding girls to fill the team, or he would've been forced to cancel the season.

"I knew that the program was in a little bit of a hole coming in and it was going to take [immediate] rebuilding," Kaiser said. "I needed to get kids, and get this program back on its feet."

Kaiser managed to compose a team of 11 lacrosse players, three soccer players, two track runners, and two basketball players. Having an inexperienced team made it difficult to have a successful season.

"It's hard playing with people who don't know lacrosse, and you're losing games but we did the best that we could," Carly Chierico, a junior midfielder on the team, said.

Chierico has been with the program since its first year and has experienced its ups and downs throughout her three years.

"Todd has been the change for the program and I'm so happy we now have girls that can play this year. We're working hard not only for ourselves, but for Todd as well," Chierico said.

Kaiser went out on a recruiting spree, and managed to fill a full 16-person roster of girls from lacrosse programs throughout the state, including nine returners. The hopes for the success of the program go beyond the returners, and lies heavily on the new names on the team.

"I want [our] team to be the one that sets the tone and expectations for QC lacrosse for the future," junior goalie, Krista Ancona, a transfer, said.

QC is the third institution Ancona has been enrolled in, and the dramatic change has been positive for her. The team prides itself on their strong chemistry, their ability to communicate with each other and the time they spend with each other.

"I have never been on a team where every single person gets along with one another," Ancona said. "When people from home ask me how school is, my answer every time is, 'I love it.'"

Due to weather conditions, the Knights have spent all of their practice time indoors, except for a Saturday practice at Mitchell Field on Long Island. The first two games scheduled

for the Knights were postponed due to the heavy snowstorms.

"It sucks that [they] were postponed, but it also gives us more time to prepare for our other games and better ourselves," sophomore attacker Angela Acevedo said.

The Knights, along with the other outdoor sports, have been forced to share gym space for practice. The differences between the hardwood floor and the field have not only made it hard to practice plays, but have even provoked injury.

"A lot of our girls have shin, ankle, and knee injuries and the condition of the floors hasn't helped," Acevedo said.

The team has no intention of letting the weather, or anything else, get in their way this season.

"We're all so determined and on

the same page to win, and if we're all on the same page, then we can't lose," Ancona said.

The Knights' next game is scheduled for March 14 against Bridgeport.

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ESPN legend Bob Ley and executive VP Norby Williamson visit Queens College

PALA ALI

Sports Reporter

Queens College Sports Broadcasting students met Bob Ley, host of ESPN's "Outside The Lines" series and SportsCenter anchor, along with Norby Williamson, ESPN's executive vice president, on Feb. 26 at the Campbell Dome.

Bob Ley began working with ESPN in 1979, only the third day of ESPN's airtime. He spoke to the students about what it takes to be in the business. He provided insight into the field of sports coverage, how to react to a breaking story and what's needed to cover the issues.

"If you are writing for TV, then you write for the ear. So develop your own voice," Ley said.

Levy mentioned how the media has changed over the last few decades. He explained the unique challenges journalists face when covering a tough story such as being vigilantly objective, fair, accurate and credible.

Williamson has worked with ESPN since 1985. He started his career with ESPN in the mailroom and worked his way up to the where he is today.

Williamson spoke about what qualities a person must have to succeed as well as how much control they have over their future at a job. He also talked about individual branding.

"You must have great work ethics," Williamson said. "A person's control over their promotions is 51% on



Bob Ley and Norby Williamson guest lectured in Michael Cohen and Michael Weisman's sports broadcasting class - a new addition to the media studies program.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHAEL BALESTRA

the individual and 49% on management."

"You need to be true to yourself and you need passion to succeed," Williamson said.

Ley said how proud he is of the history of ESPN and how they have real fans instead of just viewers. Ley, a passionate soccer fan, also spoke about the achievement of being able to cover seven World Cup soccer games.

He recalled one of his greatest moments at ESPN on April 14, 1998. ESPN had exclusive broadcasting to cover Bill Clinton discussing on role of race in sports with a panel of 10 athletes and managers, which he

covered.

Ley and Williamson gave students advice for their future in sports broadcasting.

"Be a critical consumer of the media," Ley said.

"Take away one thing from me today, don't ask yes [or] no questions. Ask open ended questions, ask probing questions," Williamson said.

After the class ended, students gathered around Ley and Williamson to ask individual questions.

James Dukas, a senior and Queens College Men's Soccer team member, was excited to meet Ley and Williamson.

"I learned a lot from them and they were very inspiring and I appreciated that they were here," Dukas said.

Michael Cohen, who teaches the class, extended his gratitude to the guests.

"Michael Weisman and I were honored to have Bob and Norby speak to the class. They provided the students [with] tremendous insight into the sports television business and the impact that ESPN has had in the industry," Cohen said.

The sports broadcasting class taught by Cohen and Weisman is a great addition to the media studies program in QC. In

the past weeks, the class hosted Ben Grossman, Justin Kutcher, sportscasters from Fox and Howie Rose - the radio voice of the New York Mets and television announcer for the New York Islanders.

In the coming weeks, the class will meet Ken Aagaard, executive vice president of CBS Sports, just in time for March Madness.

Sports broadcasting is held every Thursday at 10 a.m. in the Campbell Dome.

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KNIGHT NEWS SPORTS

NO CURVEBALLS THIS TIME AROUND

Men's baseball aim high for the new season



SEE PAGE 10

Photo Courtesy of Michael Balestra

Women's lacrosse team rebuilds ahead of new season

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