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THE KNIGHT NEWS



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Breaking News & Video

Journalism in the Interest of the Queens College Community

ACCESS YOUR SCHOOL



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TEDxCUNY Showcases influential CUNY students and faculty

JOHANNA CADET

News Reporter

For the first time in history, CUNY held its first TEDx event.

TEDxCUNY was held this past month at Macaulay Honors College, with over a dozen speakers and hundreds of attendees. The event streamed live online and other CUNY campuses, one of which was Queens College.

The event centered on CUNY's primary theme: "Access." This theme was broken into four different "Access" subgroups; Access Your Mind, Community, World and Future.

QC student Maura Lee Bee, an English and media studies major, spoke at the event. She discussed her work in the LGBTQIA community through literature.

Bee's work can be found in "How We See It," a book series that takes its proceeds and donates it to charities. Bee's latest project was a collection of poems

that explores the perspectives of LGBTQIA community in hopes to get the reader to understand the discomfort many LGBT feel in stigmatized-social interactions.

"I wanted people to take out that there's this great importance to listening to the LGBT community, and understanding, and creating this empathy by expressing their voices and connecting to other voices," Bee said.

Associated Director of Center for Ethnic Racial and Religious Understanding Sophia McGee also spoke at the event. McGee aimed to narrow racial and cultural misunderstanding by having an open dialogue about cultural differences.

McGee emphasized how CERRU serves as a medium where students present the topic at hand, and discuss disagreements that are happening on campus. She also noted QC is a blue-print of a multicultural environment where people from different backgrounds

can interact with one another on commonalities and differences.

"We may seem unique now, but we won't be shortly. We kind of have a unique responsibility on the Queens College campus to learn how to harness the power of diversity in order to affect social change. We have to learn how to be able to interact with each other, and have meaningful relationships," McGee said.

TEDxCUNY concentrated as well on issues dominating international news, and several social media platforms.

Spiro Alexandratos, chemistry professor at Hunter College and a colleague of the American Chemical Society, spoke about the importance of accepting that anything can happen referring to science and that there are limitations on how the world and universe works. Alexandratos also addressed the potential risk of Earth's future environment if mankind continues its

consumption of resources.

"Unless we do something between now and 50 years from now, we're in a heap of trouble. I think that we cannot be using fossil fuels for 50 years. They say we have enough for 100 years, and I'm telling you if we get to 50 years burning fossil fuels, game over," said Alexandratos.

Also in the category of conservation, speakers Tyler Alterman and Bryan Kateman advocated for individuals to partake in altruism and eating less meat.

Formerly an alum from Macaulay Honors College, Alterman is an advocate for "Effective Altruism." He wanted people to use reason and evidence to figure out how they can do the most good with the resources they have.

CNN anchor and Brooklyn College alumni Don Lemon was not able to attend the event because Lemon was covering the

developing story in Ferguson, but audience members were able to watch Lemon's pre-recorded speech. Lemon described his background growing up in a small town and correlating his upbringing to present day racial tension that is seen in the Michael Brown case.

"If you demand access, you have to be accessible," Lemon said.

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Readers can scan the QR codes above to enter a virtual video tour of the different sites at TEDxCUNY.

Poor Wi-Fi connections disrupt life in The Summit

DEBORAH WATMAN

News Reporter

Queens College students living in The Summit continue to struggle with weak Internet connections.

Based on convenience and an avoidance of long commutes, many students choose to dorm in the Summit. The apartment-style dormitory houses 506 students and costs \$5,500 to \$7,000 per semester. Many students like The Summit, but they expect it to come with working Wi-Fi.

Marina Nebro, a junior living in The Summit, was upset with the situation. After many failed attempts to login to Blackboard, the QC library database or spotty video chats with her friends and family, Nebro decided to organize a petition.

A poor Wi-Fi connection affects your academic work, said Nebro. Timed online tests can lose connection, which affects student grades and stress-levels.

Danielle Cohen, a student mostly pleased with the Summit, agrees with Nebro that certain things should change.

"There have been entire days when my computer wouldn't connect to the internet," Cohen



PHOTO BY AMANDA GOLDSTEIN
One of the biggest issues in The Summit is the lack of quality Wi-Fi, which has irritated students living there.

said.

The Office of Converging Technologies explained to Cohen that if more than 15 people use the internet in one area, it won't work. With the many dorm rooms close to each other, there are "obviously more people than that," said Cohen.

OCT blames the Summit for the poor Wi-Fi connection, while the Summit blames OCT.

"Blame is being tossed around. Someone should take the blame and fix it," said Nebro.

The summit has a strict no soliciting policy, which prevented Nebro from knocking on doors and asking residents to sign the petition. When she finally received approval to post the petition in the Summit, the signs were vandalized.

"The vulgarity that was placed on my petition is the same vulgarity that prevents innocent residences, like myself, from posting fliers for academic clubs or events," said Nebro.

Graffiti appeared on other club posters around the Summit as

well. Nebro grew "overwhelmed" and "disheartened" by the situation and resentful towards the staff.

"If the Summit Resident Assistants and staff can't [or] won't do anything about the vulgarity on my petition, then they have no business preventing me or anyone else from posting fliers," Nebro said.

Students showed support on Facebook and agreed with Nebro when discussing the situation, but only 24 residents showed up at her dorm room to sign the petition.

Had she received more signers, Nebro would have sent the petitions to The Summit office, The Summit homeowners, vice president of student affairs, OCT and the president. She wrote to several of these addresses before, including a note about the recent fire incident at The Summit.

While students enjoy the convenience that The Summit offers, the "high price tag" warrants more. The Summit needs to lower their rent to be more competitive with local apartments that can be just as convenient, Cohen said.

The expensive cost and a build-up of frustrations caused Nebro to make a move for next semester.

"I'm looking forward to apartment hunting at the end of this year," Nebro said.

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Summit residents displaced following fire and water damage

NINA BAKOYIANNIS

News Reporter

More than 35 residents at the Summit were displaced after a small fire broke out on Nov. 14 around 10 p.m.

The Fire Department of New York believed someone was smoking a cigarette in the second floor garbage room and threw it out while still lit, which caused flames. They said it was not a case of arson and most likely an accident.

No one was injured during the fire or flooding, Summit authorities said.

"There is no fire damage to any of the apartments and very little fire damage to the second floor trash room. The building's sprinkler system worked exactly as it is meant to and the fire was quickly extinguished. A few apartments on the first and second floors have some water damage from the sprinklers," Adam Rockman, vice president of Student Affairs, said in an email.

The sprinklers in the hallway released enough water to seep under resident's doors into their kitchens, living rooms and bedrooms. It soaked belongings they had on the floor.

About 38 resident's rooms were affected and students were left without apartments. They had to stay in vacant rooms on other floors until the damage was repaired.

Major construction took place throughout the first and second floors following the incident. Workers from ServPro Fire and Water Cleanup and Restoration replaced the sheetrock in the walls, re-painted and installed new carpets. Summit administration said they remained hopeful that the construction will be completed in a timely manner and are doing all they can to aid displaced residents.

"It's hard to tell [when the construction will be completed] because it's a step-by-step process, but definitely within the next few weeks," Russell Johnson, a Summit resident assistant, said.

The incident caused major stress for students and faculty at the Summit, especially with finals and holidays so near. Radheeka Shamara, a junior, was one resident affected.

"It's given me an experience I'll never forget. I moved to New York City from small town in Iowa and then next thing you know



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN THOMAS
A small fire in The Summit led to some dorm rooms to be flooded.

my apartment building is on fire. I had to move all my belongings upstairs while classes were going on and couldn't focus on my studies because I had three papers due the same week," Sharma said.

Junior Andrea Zuart was displaced after her room suffered water damage.

"This incident caused a ton of stress for me. I was home that weekend and found out through my roommates my room was flooded. I had to miss class Monday and hurt my back moving everything in my room upstairs by myself," Zuart said.

Summit staff reminded students that smoking is not permitted in The Summit or anywhere on the QC campus. The campus-smoking ban began in January 2012 when CUNY banned tobacco from all campuses.

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Education and internships go hand-in-hand, poll says

BRANDON JORDAN

News Reporter

Twenty-nine percent of graduates say they held a job or an internship where they were able to apply skills learned from classes, according to a new poll from Gallup.

The survey found recent graduates more likely to find the connection with 35 percent of students who graduated from 2010 to 2014 compared to 29 percent of graduates from 1960 to 1969.

The Gallup poll highlighted, when the statistics were broken down, how 31 percent of women found their classroom experience helpful when interning compared to 27 percent of men. Furthermore, 32 percent of blacks applied the same lessons to their internships, the highest out of all ethnicities.

Internships are set to decrease this year, despite being valued by employers when seeking applicants. According to a report by the National Association of Colleges and Employers, internships will decline by 3.4 percent in 2014. Although in the northeast, internship positions will increase by 10 percent.

Queens College offers numerous programs and centers, ranging from the CUNY Service Corps to the Office of Career Development & Internships, in providing internships. In addition, some departments offer internships and courses complimenting such

experiences.

David Leventhal, a professor of the business and liberal arts program, runs the internship program for the BALA department. He noted students often go to internships to know what they want to do once they graduate.

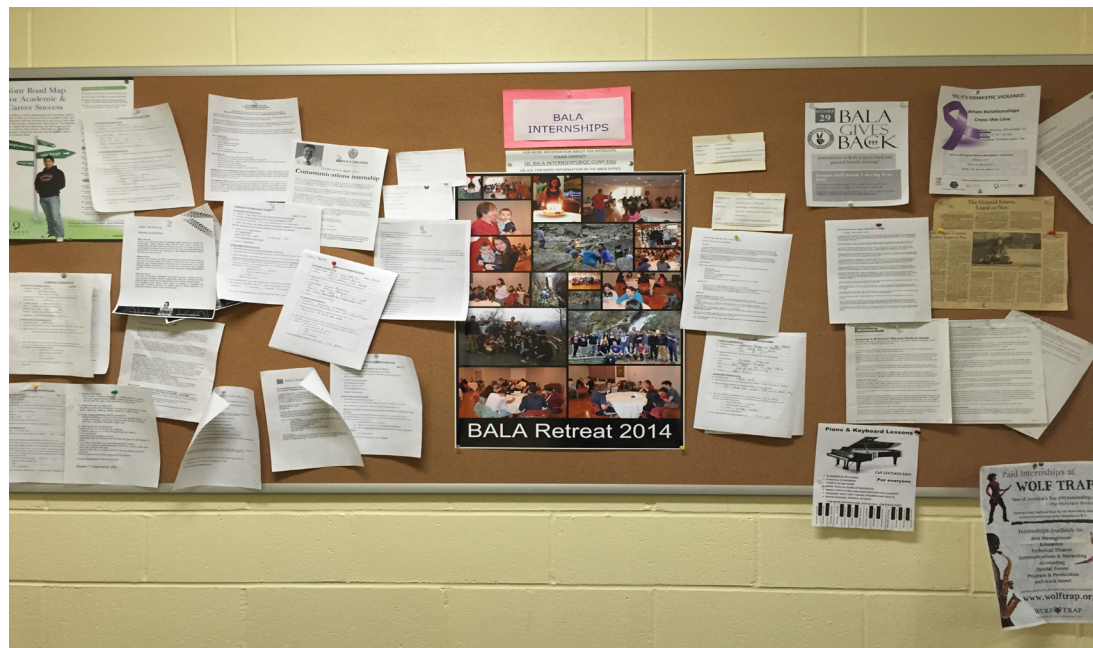
“A lot of students do not know what they want to do. They want to get some experience in the real world to get a sense of what they like and what they want to do,” Leventhal said.

Anna Akopian, a senior majoring in accounting, did not apply lessons from the classroom for her internships, as she did not feel the classes she took were relevant.

“The only lesson I have really used is to constantly work hard in order to get the results you want, and to show your professor or supervisor, whatever the case may be, that you care and can get things done,” Akopian said.

Akopian mentioned how certain internships are only interested in free labor rather than providing experience. She highlighted an experience at a public relations firm, which she disliked.

Unpaid internships bloomed in recent years with a recent investigation by ProPublica, an investigative news outlet, finding instances where the Department of Labor neglected to follow-up on



Students with the Business and Liberal Arts minor can look outside the BALA office for what internships are available to apply for.

PHOTO BY AMANDA GOLDSTEIN

unpaid labor abuses after outside pressure and lack of motivation.

In terms of job prospects, a report from the National Association of Colleges and Employers in 2013 found 63.1 percent of paid interns received a job compared to 37 percent of unpaid interns and 35 percent without an internship.

Leventhal mentioned how internships students received through the BALA program often led to a job offer.

“We have had students frequently get full-time [jobs] from the company that hired them as an

intern,” Leventhal said.

Anthony Patti, a junior also majoring in accounting, felt classes at QC can provide assistance; however, he pointed out students should do more to build for their future.

“I don’t have an internship, so I cannot really speak from experience. But I can say the classes at Queens College are very good. Although, even the best classes can only get you so far,” Patti said.

Akopian felt students should use internships to know what they want to do for their careers. She regretted starting earlier, but was

glad she started doing some.

“I believe internships truly make a difference on your resume. After each internship I got closer to my goal, which was the internship I wanted to do this semester [at Lacoste]. But know that it’s okay to be unsure about what you want to do with the rest of your life after college,” Akopian said.

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Poll finds lack of support for business majors in college

CANDICE SAMUELS

News Reporter

A Gallup poll reported fewer than one in 10 college graduates who majored in business received emotional support from faculty, staff and other influential figures while in college.

By contrast, emotional support among graduates who majored in the arts and humanities was double that of business majors. Social sciences and education majors along with sciences and engineering majors ranked second and third.

These results are based on the inaugural Gallup-Purdue Index, a joint research effort with Purdue University and Lumina Foundation to study the relationship between the college experience and college graduates’ lives afterward.

Gallup classifies whether a college graduate had “emotional

support” by how graduates responded to questions designed to see if the student received the intellectual leadership, guidance and care that can make a good education a great education. Students were asked if they had a professor who inspired them to learn, if they felt they had a professor who cared or if they had a mentor.

The Queens College Bachelor of Business Administration program, part of the economics department, offers students a choice to specialize in a particular field of study by majoring in finance, international business or actuarial studies for business.

The program creates a supportive “college-to-career” community for students to network, seek advice and become experts

in the field of their choice. They offer professional development tools such as resume reviews, mock interviews and assistance in creating Linked-In profiles.

In addition, QC offers students the opportunity to minor in business through the business and liberal arts program. This multi-disciplinary minor provides students with internships, professional mentors, and career planning workshops while promoting critical thinking, problem solving and effective writing and speaking.

Launched in 2010, The New Professionals Program, prepares Queens College’s top students for internships and permanent employment. Seminars and mock interviews help students easily transition from college to the

business world.

“We prepare our New Professionals to be productive and effective in the marketplace. As a result, they represent themselves and the school well. This opens doors for students now and for future Queens College graduates. I am a big believer in keeping in contact with our graduates since the first few years after graduation are crucial,” Denise Miller, director of the program, said.

Gallup research shows that having emotional support in college is strongly associated with higher workplace engagement and well-being.

“The workplace is the workplace and, regardless of the discipline, cultivation of certain behaviors help one to be successful on job interviews,

during internships and once they are permanently employed,” Miller said.

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Homeland Security official addresses human trafficking in Latin America

JORDI SEVILLA

News Reporter

Victim Assistance Specialist Tenaz Dubash of the New York District Office of Immigration of Homeland Security came to Queens College on Nov. 19 to speak about human trafficking and efforts to prevent it.

“[In] our office, we work with a lot of international victims of human trafficking, and my counterparts at the FBI work with local victims of human trafficking or domestic victims of human trafficking,” Dubash said.

Dubash’s presentation was followed by representatives of Voces Latinas, whose mission is to reduce the rate of HIV transmission and violence among immigrant Latin women, and Latin Women in Action, a community based social service agency to help Latin women and their families.

Human trafficking differs from smuggling. It is not a border crossing-based, but more exploitation-based.

“If a young woman was in China, and she saw an ad in the newspaper that said ‘Oh, when you come to America, you’ll be working as a nanny’, but , when she comes to America, her passport is taken away. She’s locked up in a basement, working 24/7 and not being paid. That’s clear cut trafficking because it is exploitation-based as opposed to just transportation-based,” Dubash said.

With updates to the Trafficking Victims Protections Act, passed in 2000 traffickers now get long sentences as well as victims receiving more help.

“99 percent of our human

trafficking cases come out of Mexico,” Dubash said.

For example, an impoverished town in Mexico may have cases of human trafficking. There may be a young girl, who has little education, may fall in love and the man may trick the woman and take her to the United States, and force her to do prostitution.

Many of the cases involve young girls are physically taken from their homes to the impoverished town, and forced to stay in the house. Lacking in education, both the girl and her parents may be tricked by kidnappers.

The pimps threaten girls with the thought of deportation and their children suffering. There have also been cases of domestic trafficking. Pimps are very ruthless,

as some may brand victims, force abortions and even starve victims.

“Traffickers have drivers, drivers are the middlemen, they’re going to drive these women to wherever to see the John waiting downstairs for 15 minutes. As soon as she comes down, she turns the money over to the driver. She keeps nothing, he keeps half and he gives the trafficker half,” Dubash said.

Immigration Custom Enforcement can assist children and parents of victims by bringing them to the U.S. legally.

Moreover, there are things Dubash and her colleagues do for victims. Continued Presence is a one-year legal status. It is provided to victims of human trafficking when there is an open investigation on human trafficking crimes, so

victims can stay in the United States, get refugee benefits and the status can be renewed annually.

Two long-term statuses are T Visas, which are given victims of a severe form of trafficking and U Visas, which the state or federal authorities assign for victims who suffered from not only trafficking, but also crimes such as torture, slave trade and rape.

“In our statistics, which I used for five years, we have about 400 victims. So we are averaging about 50-55 victims per year,” Dubash said.

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Sondheim and Bernstein revue brings musical theatre to campus

JAIME ZAHL

News Reporter

A group of Queens College students performed a musical theatre recital titled “A Little Night of Sondheim and Bernstein” on Nov. 20 in the LeFrak Concert Hall.

The revue featured solo and ensemble musical numbers from shows composed by Stephen Sondheim and Leonard Bernstein.

Vocal performance major Michael Drozd began organizing the recital at the beginning of the semester, following the success of last spring’s Broadway themed revue.

“Last semester’s recital was a review of various songs, and I wanted to make this semester’s recital a little bit different by adding a theme,” Drozd said. “Stephen Sondheim is a well-respected composer in musical theater, pretty much everyone loves his music and because his songs are so clever and beautiful I just thought he would be a fun pick.”

Bernstein worked with Sondheim on multiple shows and was added to the revue to expand the selection of music, Drozd said. However, the show mainly features Sondheim songs.

The show opened with the ensemble number “Comedy Tonight” from Stephen Sondheim’s “A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum.” Two



“A Little Night of Sondheim and Bernstein” was lively through many musical numbers such as “West Side Story.”

PHOTO BY AMY GUARINO

cast members introduced the performance with the famous line “playgoers I bid you welcome” from the show. The 13 cast members exhibited fervent energy and an obvious passion for what they were presenting.

The show included many famous songs composed by Sondheim and Bernstein as well as others not as well known.

Jessica Altieri, music education major and member of the Queens College acapella group

“The iTones,” followed the opening act with a beautiful rendition of “So Many People” from Sondheim’s first and little-known work, “Saturday Night.” The show was written in 1954, but was unproduced until 1997.

“Into the Woods” by Sondheim and “West Side Story” by Bernstein were some of the better-known show choices of the night.

Yara Hoppenstein sang “I Feel Pretty,” made famous by

Natalie Wood’s performance in the 1961 film adaptation of “West Side Story.” Gillian Doupe also took on “West Side” with a solo arrangement of the ethereal “Somewhere.”

Gary Riera and Drozd captured the comedy of “Into the Woods,” Sondheim’s version of classic fairy tales, with the song “Agony,” which the two men portrayed princes puzzled over their lust for women. Amy Guarino portrayed Cinderella with the song “On the Steps of

the Palace.” Her beautiful soprano expertly filled the large auditorium, exhibiting much skill as a singer.

The revue was student-run with the assistance of music professor Sandra Babb, who helped secure LeFrak as a venue.

Drozd hatched the idea for the recitals after realizing there was a lack of musical theatre on campus.

“From what I understand the theater department puts on a main stage musical every other spring semester and a bunch of us students think that it’s not enough,” Drozd said. “We have fantastic music, theater, and dance programs, but yet there is no solid bridge between them. These recitals could hopefully be the basis to strengthen that connection.”

Drozd plans on organizing another recital in spring 2015. One idea, he said, is a “gender-bender” recital. Performers who identify as female would sing songs usually sung by males and vice versa.

Eventually he would like to try and form a club dedicated to musical theatre performances.

“We have the talent and the passion, it’s just a matter of making it known,” Drozd said.

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CELEBRATING HISTORY

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Virtual reality headset showcased at TEDxCUNY

JORDI SEVILLA

News Reporter

Oculus Rift is a virtual reality headset letting players step inside their favorite games and virtual worlds.

At TEDxCUNY, two game developers, Christopher Hart and Micahel Hazani, showed off their games using the device.

Christopher Hart presented his game “Synthesis,” a game teaching programming in a grand 3-D environment.

“Synthesis is an abstract molecular dynamics simulator played by programming cellular automata. You take on the role of a scientist who designs self-replicating molecules in order to win grants. Different structures are specified that the molecule must form, and it is your job to figure out the correct program to build it. The game is controlled using a visual programming system based around a flowchart of dropdown menus,”

said the game’s website.

When a player starts the game, they immediately feel as if they are drifting through a sea of shining dots, as if the player was floating through stars. Each dot is a computer, running their own set of code.

“They’re self-replicating nano-molecules. You program them to copy themselves and to bond with other versions of these computers out there. Depending on what you program it to do, it has these different complex interactions,” Hart said.

The player can actually move around these dots in a totally immersive 3-D environment. The motions of the dots are smooth and, in the game, players do not even have to know how to code.

“There’s really no wrong answer either. In regular programming, if you make a typo,

your program will crash, but with this, if you choose the wrong thing, it will do something different than you expected. It lets you use trial and error to learn programming,” Hart explains.

Michael Hazani, lead singer and songwriter for the band QVALIA, showcased one of the interactive virtual realities called Songscares, used in the creation of every song on their latest album “This is the Color of my Dreams.”

Oculus Rift technology was used to create an immersive 3-D environment where users can interact with the song, partake and experience it.

“The objective of this Songscape is to collect all the pieces of the song - various jigsaw puzzle pieces that represent various instruments in the song. There’s a piece for the bass, synths, vocals and so forth. If you manage to

collect all the pieces in time, you get a free download of the album,” Hazani said. “The real purpose of the experience is total immersion in the music rather than winning anything, which is why it’s not exactly a game.”

Players move through a 3-D landscape that corresponds with one of the songs playing. Rather than actively listening to the song, the immersion occurs naturally and subconsciously, while the player does challenges.

“When I was working on these songs, I used to take endless walks in the Hudson waterfronts and I would try to come up with lyrics and concepts. It led to the sense of environment and that I get the song’s elements not only from the lyrics and instruments, but also where I am,” Hazani said.

In an interview with “The Creator’s Project”, Hazani said

environment is important in song writing.

“I get the song’s elements not only from the lyrics and instruments, but also where I am,” Hazani says.

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Disney composer Alan Menken Skypes with music students

JAIME ZAHL

News Reporter

Great music has the power to define times, places and generations.

It would be hard to find a composer that has touched more hearts than Alan Menken. Along with the late lyricist Howard Ashman, he scored and wrote songs in acclaimed Disney animated films such as “The Little Mermaid,” “Beauty and the Beast” and “Aladdin” as well as Broadway shows such as “Little Shop of Horrors.” With 12 Grammys, eight Academy Awards and seven Golden Globes under his belt, Menken is a legend.

Queens College students had the opportunity to talk to Menken via web-cam during Professor Peter Calandra’s film scoring course at the Aaron Copland School of Music.

Calandra worked with Menken during the off-Broadway run of “Little Shop of Horrors” where he served as pianist, conductor and musical director of the production. This connection made Menken an obvious choice as a guest for the film scoring class.

Calandra connected his laptop to a classroom projector, bringing Menken right into the classroom.

“I think everyone grew up

on your music,” Calandra said to Menken, referring to his work in Disney films.

He first became involved with Disney in the late ‘80s through Ashman, Menken said. Michael Eisner, CEO and chairman of Disney at the time, was looking for young talent who could adapt theatrical works. When Ashman met with Eisner and his associates they presented him with three potential films: A Tina Turner biography, an animated version of “The Thief of Baghdad” and an adaptation of Hans Christian Anderson’s “The Little Mermaid”. Ashman chose the latter and asked Menken to collaborate.

“The Little Mermaid,” which just celebrated its 25th anniversary, turned things around for Disney, Menken said.

“Disney was in the doldrums then,” Menken said. “Our assignment was to write a musical that could sit on the shelf with the other Disney classics.”

However, the film was different in its original conception, Menken said. Sebastian, the uptight Jamaican crab with a flair for conducting, was originally supposed to be a stuffy English butler type. Once they decided to make the character Jamaican, the score and many songs became

inspired by calypso.

Menken and Ashman continued this method by writing “Beauty and the Beast” as a “French musical,” Menken said. While “Under the Sea” was the big calypso production number in “Mermaid,” the song-writing team created “Be Our Guest” with the French theme in mind.

“You should be able to say ‘it is the blank musical,’” said Menken.

Over the years Menken had the opportunity to adapt the music in the films into Broadway shows. “Beauty and the Beast” ran on Broadway from 1994 to 2007, establishing its place as the eighth longest running Broadway show in history. In recent years, Disney has dominated Broadway with “The Lion King,” “The Little Mermaid,” “Newsies” and, most recently, “Aladdin.”

When bringing a show to Broadway, he is able to write new songs and include some that may have been cut from the films, Menken said.

“Proud of Your Boy,” originally written by Ashman and Menken for “Aladdin,” was added into the 2014 Broadway production. When Aladdin’s mother was cut from the film, the team made the decision to cut the

song as well. The song meant a lot to Ashman, who died of AIDS-related complications in 1991, Menken said. However, his last song lives on Broadway.

Menken continues to write music for Disney today. Most recently he worked on the stage adaptation of “The Hunchback of Notre Dame,” which is running at La Jolla Playhouse in California.

He was also involved with “Galavant,” a musical-comedy television show slated to premiere on ABC next year.

Despite his awards and critical acclaim, Menken remains a down to earth man with a pure love of music. He lives in Westchester, N.Y., with his wife of 43 years.

He answered a few questions from students, while also giving them advice on breaking into the music industry.

“Piracy has so greatly eaten away at what I make,” Menken said.

He also referenced programs like Spotify that make it difficult for musicians to make money. Menken said that live music is where the money is.

However, many students remain set on pursuing careers as musicians no matter how much money they make.

Senior vocal performance

major Nathalie Escudero was one of many students inspired by Menken’s music in the Disney films.

“One of the reasons I decided to become a musician was because of Disney,” Escudero said.

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Majority of students satisfied with shuttle bus service

JOHANNA CADET

News Reporter

The fall semester is coming to an end and students have mostly good reviews about Queens College's new shuttle bus services.

Based on the students' responses, QC's new shuttle service did a great job bringing students to and from the major transfer points, Flushing Main Street and Jamaica Station. Many students feel the new service has helped them reach their destination more swiftly than their previous mode of transportation: the MTA.

Some students feel the transportation service has lost some of its efficiency pertaining to arrival time, causing students to arrive late to class. Sheryl Bisoño takes the Jamaica shuttle bus and says when the shuttle bus arrives late it severely affects her academic work.

"Sometimes the timing is different, which will make me miss a class or rehearsal. There were times when professors wouldn't let

me into class because I was already over the five minute grace period," Bisoño said.

Students would also like the Jamaica pick-up point to be closer to Jamaica Avenue rather than Sutphin Blvd. An anonymous shuttle bus committee member said the Jamaica pick-up point is placed on Sutphin Blvd to increase enrollment for potential students living in Long Island, hence Jamaica's pick-up location's proximity to the LIRR station.

The committee member suggested that if Jamaica students would like their pick-up point to be closer to Jamaica Avenue, they should send their concerns to shuttle@qc.cuny.edu. The committee member went on to say when enough students complain about their pick-up point the committee would have no choice but to address the matter.

"I have to walk from Sutphin

Blvd towards Parsons and Archer Avenue. It's about a five-ten minute walk. It makes a big difference especially when it gets colder and darker," Bisoño said.

The shuttle service has a committee with approximately 10 members, which includes members from Student Government (SGA), Public Safety, The Vice President, Procurement, Student Affairs, Marketing & Community Department, Office of Information Technologies (OIT), Finances, and Vice President of Student Affairs and Accounting. Vice President William Keller is the chairman of the committee, but all parties involved vote for the changes that students request.

Students typically go to the Vice President of Student Affairs, Adam Rockman, or SA President Raj Maheshwarl. Each request goes through a series of assessments that analyze the cost, safety of drivers

and students, how many students will benefit from that particular change, and how will it affect the departure and arrival time.

Some students also think the rides should extend to guest coming to an open event hosted by QC.

"If our school has an event, they should incorporate the parents. I think the school should also allow parents to take a ride," accounting major, Caroline You said.

However, the experience has been unpleasant for some students.

Education major, Tanisha Edouard recalled a particular event that took place on the Jamaica bus. Edouard was searching through her bag for her QC ID card when she was spoken to harshly by the driver then kicked off the bus for not finding her ID card fast enough.

"I've had two altercations with one driver. He was very unprofessional and made a big deal that I could not find my card fast

enough. Then he kicked me off the bus," Edouard said.

Students can report any incident on the shuttle buses to Public Safety. From Public Safety the report is given to the committee where all necessary actions take place to ensure it does not occur again.

Overall, student responses to the new shuttle services remain positive. Based off their responses, students prefer the shuttle service over the MTA as a mode of transportation to school.

"I take the Flushing shuttle bus, I think it's great! I like it; I take it every opportunity I get," computer science major, Manuel Kim said.

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New email system replaces Lotus Notes

YONGMIN CHO

News Reporter

The QC community was recently informed that the Lotus Notes student email system will be deactivated and replaced with Office 365, a web-based service provided by Microsoft, which provides various features.

"Microsoft's latest offering, Office 365, provides our students with much more than e-mail and calendars. It includes a feature-rich set of tools for collaboration using Microsoft cloud-based products like Word, Excel and PowerPoint," Markus Erndl, interim deputy chief information officer, said.

Additional features include 1 terrabyte of cloud storage, improved mobile access through support for IOS, Android, Blackberry and Windows phone and up to five separate installations of the full version of Microsoft Office Suite. Office 365 also plans to supplement further services in the future, such as chat and video collaboration.

The new system is available to currently enrolled undergraduate, graduate and non-degree registered students who may continue to use the account even after graduation. However, the service is not accessible to alumni.

"I don't know if they will amend it, but, as of now, alumni do not have access to Office 365,"

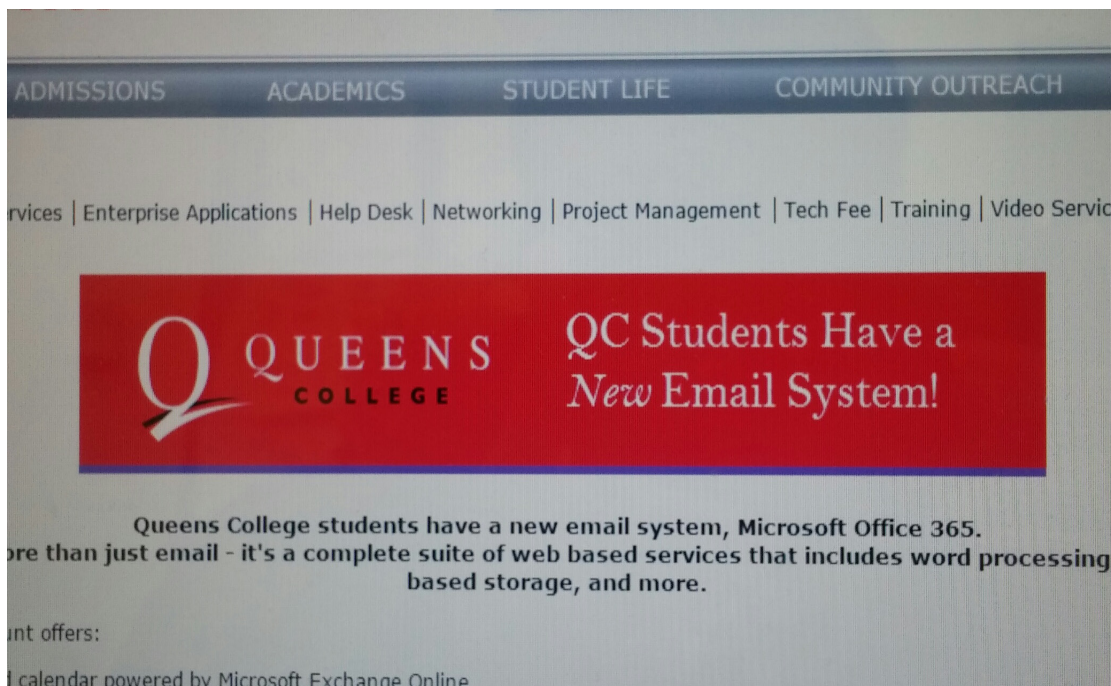


PHOTO BY STEPHANIE DAVIS

For students attempting to enter to their Lotus email account, they will be notified with this banner informing them of a new email system.

Robert Lau, software licensing coordinator said.

QC intended to improve student e-mail services by working with CUNY Central for some time and the implementation of Office 365 is the product of their plan for enhancement.

"We endeavor to provide modern, high accessibility, robust tools to our students," Erndl said. "This is the main reason for moving from our legacy system to Microsoft Office 365 for our students."

Microsoft partnered with CUNY for several years, offering the cloud based e-mail services to other CUNY colleges. Transferring to Office 365 was done at no cost to QC or CUNY, unlike the cost to improve the Lotus Notes system.

"Our Lotus Notes environment could have been leveraged to provide some additional services, but at a high cost to the institution," Erndl said.

Since Nov. 21, The Lotus Notes system no longer receives

email from non-Lotus accounts. The e-mails sent to the Lotus Notes accounts will be forwarded to the Office 365 e-mail system.

To access the Office 365 accounts, students need to use their CUNYfirst username followed by "@qmail.cuny.edu" and CUNYfirst password at login.microsoftonline.com.

The Office of Information Technologies Help Desk will assist students in accessing the new Office 365 accounts; however, help

will be limited in fixing the Office applications.

Microsoft has an accessible 24-hour live chat system to assist users with their issues.

When QC used Lotus Notes, the help desk had access to its servers, but now Microsoft holds the servers and is in charge of troubleshooting, Lau said.

"It's like too many hands in the cookie jar," Lau said, referring to the accidents and errors that may occur if too many people access the new servers. "Everything is a learning curve."

Office 365 is still very new to QC, but the staff and students are adapting to the new system and await further enhancements to the system.

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Crew films parts of John Lennon movie in Remsen Hall

JUSTIN WARSHAWSKY

News Reporter

On Dec. 8, 1980, shots were fired at the front entrance of the Dakota building in Manhattan's Upper West Side. Some people ran away while others rushed to help the man who was shot. The victim was John Lennon, shot in the back four times by Mark Chapman.

Lennon was a member of "The Beatles", who debuted in the early 1960s. Famous in England, the Beatles soon came to America beginning "Beatlemania."

Last August, a film went into pre-production in Manhattan focusing on the night John Lennon was murdered. The film titled "The Lennon Report" focuses not on Lennon or Chapman, but rather on the medical staff, who came to Lennon's aid once he arrived at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital.

Some filming took place at Queens College on Nov. 24 to film one of the scenes for the movie. It began in Remsen Hall in the later part of the afternoon. Despite the raw damp weather at the time, some students remained outside just to see the production assistants at work.

The location scout had



PHOTO COURTESY OF SARAH ROSENTHAL
"The Lennon Report," which deals with what happened after John Lennon was shot, will debut next year on Dec. 8.

previously visited QC before for another film where he came across in Remsen Hall.

"He saw it to be fit for our film. We then saw the pictures and went to scout it ourselves and we loved it," Gabriel Francesco said.

Gabriel Francesco said he feels very fortunate to be working with a great all-around staff and that "everyone is really friendly on the set."

The producers decided to

use Remsen Hall to film some scenes that took place in the ABC newsroom the night Lennon was killed.

Around the set there were more than 30 people from the film crew moving different kinds of equipment along with wires stretched all around the floor from one room leading into another. Rafael Francesco explained it takes a long time to film one minute of any given scene.

"It can take up to 1 1/2 hours. Just look all around us," Rafael Francesco said.

The Lennon Report, produced by Gabriel and Rafael Francesco, tells the story of what really happened the night Lennon was killed.

"The Lennon Report" focuses specifically on the surgeons who operated on John Lennon after arriving at the Hospital.

Gabriel Francesco noted, before filming took place, he spent four months going around meeting with all of the people who worked on the medical staff that tried to save Lennon's life. From the surgeons to the nurses, Gabriel Francesco went to all of their houses where he received their first hand eye-witness accounts from that fateful night.

"After 34 years, something new will be coming to light. There's going to be a shock," Gabriel said.

However, he did not elaborate on what the shock would be.

"The Lennon Report" stars names like Stef Dawson and David Zayas. Dawson is largely known for playing Annie Cresta from "The Hunger Games" series. Zayas played Angel Batista from "Dexter" as well as his portrayal of Sal Maroni in the recently hit television show "Gotham." Set to debut next year on Dec. 8, the film aims to tell a sincere and true story.

"Some of the people didn't even know it was John Lennon. The film is about the men and women who lived in New York City just trying to save a life," Gabriel said.

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OP-EDS

To Teach or to Indoctrinate?

BY TIMOTHY ROSEN

I've been privileged to teach at Queens College for a number of years now. As a QC alumnus it is especially exciting to teach here. As terrific as Queens College is, it can be even better. One way to make it better is for professors to fully respect the academic freedom of their students. Over the years, I've heard plenty of stories from my students about professors who use their classrooms as their own personal soapboxes. Some students have even told me that they are afraid to disagree with their professors for fear of jeopardizing their grades.

The fact of the matter is that college professors are not supposed to use their classrooms as a soapbox to indoctrinate students. Our

job is to get students to think critically and that means they will sometimes disagree with their professors. Faculty members should be careful not to push their political views on their students. I admit that I have sometimes been guilty of this myself and I need to do better—we all do.

All faculty members would be well advised to review the Joint Statement on Rights and Freedoms of Students, promulgated by the American Association of University Professors—the AAUP. Here are a few pertinent excerpts from that statement:

"Academic institutions exist for the transmission of knowledge, the pursuit of truth, the development of students, and the general well-being of society. Free inquiry and free

expression are indispensable to the attainment of these goals. As members of the academic community, students should be encouraged to develop the capacity for critical judgment and to engage in a sustained and independent search for truth. The professor in the classroom and in conference should encourage free discussion, inquiry, and expression. Student performance should be evaluated solely on an academic basis, not on opinions or conduct in matters unrelated to academic standards... Students should be free to take reasoned exception to the data or views offered in any course of study and to reserve judgment about matters of opinion, but they are responsible for learning the content of any course of study

for which they are enrolled."

In addition, this excerpt from the AAUP's Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure is relevant: "Teachers are entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing their subject, but they should be careful not to introduce into their teaching controversial matter which has no relation to their subject."

I call upon my fellow faculty members to scrupulously abide by these principles. It would be nice if all faculty members got an email on the first day of class which provided a link to the above-mentioned statements of the AAUP. Perhaps students should also get a similar email reminding them of their right to academic freedom and what recourse they have if their rights have been violated.

In conclusion, we are not supposed to use our classrooms as indoctrination centers. We are supposed to give students both sides of a story and let them come to their own conclusions. In short, we are supposed to encourage critical thinking and that can only be done in an environment where students are truly encouraged to think for themselves.

Timothy Rosen is a professor in the Business and Liberal Arts department.

Letters to the Editor and op-eds can be submitted to info@theknightnews.com

All guest op-eds and letters are published unedited

Museum of Moving Image screens director Rouben Mamoulian's works

LAURA BONNER

News Reporter

Rouben Mamoulian was a world-renowned director in the earlier half of the 20th century known for his technical innovations and revolutionary camera-work.

In November, as a part of a partnership with the Anthropology Museum of the People of New York and the Armenian Cultural Resource Center at Queens College, Mamoulian was showcased in a film festival event at the Museum of Moving Image in Astoria, the city where Mamoulian's film "Applause" was shot.

On Nov. 7, what started as a red carpet event cascaded into a symphony of critically acclaimed films all weekend long such as

"Love Me Tonight" and "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" taking Millennials down the less than familiar rabbit hole of early 20th century eerie plot sequences, good looks and timeless beauty.

In 1931, Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde is a classic rendition of Robert Louis Stevenson's book, Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde almost a half a century earlier.

Not a word is spoken with the start the film as the screen crackles and pops. The whole room is dark and the cinema lights up as the cinema transforms into an incandescent beam of light.

The film begins with a close up of a perfectly proportioned

masculine hand playing Johann Sebastian Bach's "Ich ruf' zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ in F Minor" on a Steinway grand piano.

The edges of the screen are faded to highlight one of Mamoulian's greatest camera tricks of his era designed to allow him to slowly fade in and out of scenes.

Through each scene, Mamoulian takes the audience through a series of Mr. Hyde's transformations of man to beast, until eventually the beast replaces him altogether. Each transformation gives the audience another systematic glance into the character's disposition to society's rules, outlines the very real

responsibilities that plague many wealthy Americans and Europeans of that era, and the psychological ramifications that stem from them. Mamoulian allows the audience to understand the innate nature of human beings and their need to satisfy desires and urges without society's constant lingering and disapproval.

Mamoulian films are known for their sex and seduction. The raw and unbridled sexual desire that runs rampant in his characters saturates virtually every scene. Though in his time, Mamoulian received many critics who believed this stark sexual behavior was recognizable not of the primal urges

of a middle century American, but of a sexual deviancy that the director alone possessed.

Despite his many critics over the years, one never questioned Mamoulian's ability to mold himself in such a way that constantly transcended new technicalities with each film that he created.

As Mamoulian's films are presented big screen once more, and probably not the last, viewers can understand the transition from classic movies to today's box office hits.

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SPORTS

QC has a Knight in wet armor—Jordan Melidor

FERNANDO ECHEVERRI

Sports Reporter

The Queens College Knights men's and women's swimming teams are off to a good season with three wins and two losses. They have surpassed last season's total of only two wins, with many more appearances to go.

A strong swimmer has joined the ranks, breaking records and leaving competition in his mist—19-year-old Jordan Melidor.

Queens College's swim team most recent competition was at the United States Merchant Marine Academy Memorial Invitational, marking the start of the USMMA swimming season. Adelphi, Southern Connecticut State, Bridgeport University and SUNY Maritime attended the invitational, according to the USMMA Athletics website.

Melidor ranked third in the 200-yard freestyle, third in the 500-yard freestyle and sixth in the 100-meter butterfly, all out of 32 competing swimmers.

The first home game of the season was on Nov. 13 and Melidor performed strongly. He broke the school record in the 200-yard freestyle, finishing at 1:45.78, the previous record being 1:45.97 held by Giorgio Alliaia, made in 1987.

Although breaking the record was impressive, Melidor's swimming ability proved to be in the 500-yard freestyle.

"Endurance is his specialty. I knew he was going to perform great in the 500-yard freestyle," Jean Joseph, Melidor's brother, said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHAEL D. BALESTRA
Jordan Melidor cites the swimming team as a "strong asset" and helpful for him to be determined in every match-up.

Finishing first after 20 laps back and forth in his lane, Melidor swam 21 seconds faster than second place swimmer, John Rotolo, 18, from Adelphi and one minute and 41 seconds faster than the sixth place swimmer, Thomas Soregaroli, 18, a teammate.

Melidor proves to be far more than a swimmer. As a computer science major, his main priority is getting an education.

"Division 1 schools look fascinating, but sometimes they put sports before school and I'm not thinking that way. Plus, you can find Division 2 teams as fast as

Division 1 teams, or even faster. I think QC is perfect for me," said Melidor.

Born in Queens, he moved to Paris at 4-years-old. He began swimming for the youth team CS Lilas Natation at 9-years-old. At 13, he moved to Martinique for high school, where he swam for his school's swimming team. When his brother, Jean Joseph, began attending QC, he was interested in the school and the swimming team.

"I was in France when my brother was studying at QC, so I asked him to check out the swimming team. First I did research

to see if QC offered a computer science degree, then I contacted the coach, visited few times with my brother and finally enrolled, Melidor said.

"I would say that the main reason [for staying at QC] was because my brother would be able to guide me easily through my freshman year."

Since competing for QC, Melidor has broken four records: the 200-yard freestyle swim, the 500-yard freestyle swim, the 1,000-yard freestyle swim and the 100-yard butterfly.

The freestyle swim is the

competition where any officially allowed techniques can be used, but the front crawl stroke is most commonly used, where the arms are circled forward in alternation and the feet are kicked up and down a foot apart. The butterfly is a stroke using both arms circling at the same time, hands together, while the feet are together and kicking at the same time, according to the NCAA rules for swimming and diving.

"I'm strong because of the team. The team is the strong asset. People say that swimming is an individual sport, they got it all wrong," Melidor said.

Although Melidor is a fast competitor, he praises his team for their hard work.

"My swimming team is like my second family, we all go through the same pain together at practice. If today we can beat any other swimming team it's because of the entire team, not because of me," Melidor said.

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KNIGHT NEWS SPORTS



MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE



Freshman Jordan Melidor is ever-present
for the men's swim team this season

Op-Ed: The role of professors is to teach, not dictate

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