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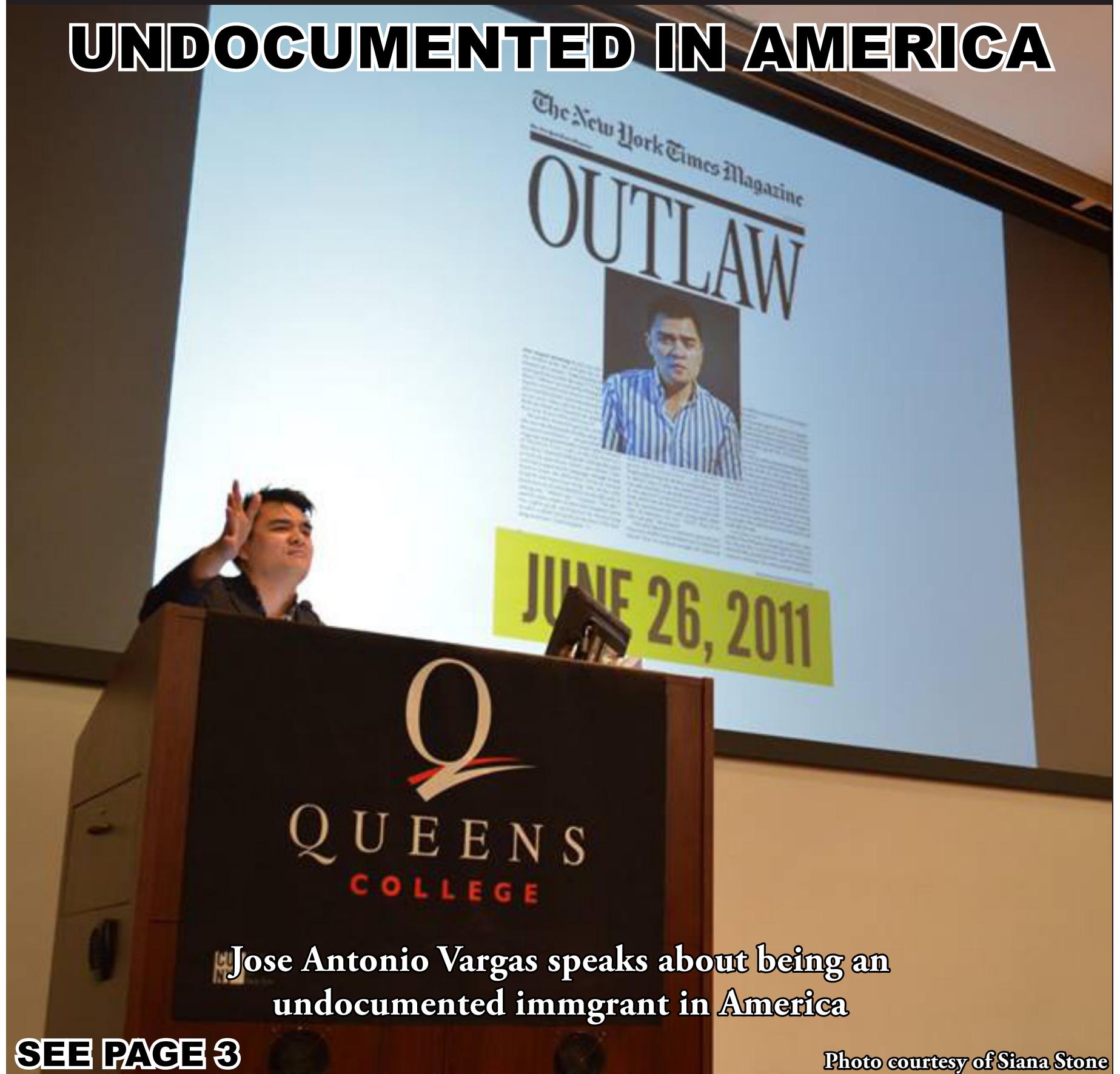
THE
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NEWS



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Journalism in the Interest of the Queens College Community

UNDOCUMENTED IN AMERICA



Jose Antonio Vargas speaks about being an undocumented immigrant in America

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Photo courtesy of Siana Stone

New York State teachers face certification obstacles

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Activist groups face privacy issues

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EDITORIALS

Thank you, Professor Gerry Solomon

For freshmen in college, most students are unsure of what they want to do with their lives, especially when choosing a major.

Yet, students fortunate enough to find the journalism department during this process have met Professor Gerry Solomon, who is referred to by journalism minors as “the man.”

After students enter Solomon’s office, they will leave feeling confident about their future in journalism and college. To top it all off, students feel like they gained a friend.

After all, Solomon makes students feel capable of doing anything. He supports and treats them like real journalists.

Solomon graduated from Queens College with a bachelor’s degree in political science. He later received his master’s degree at Columbia University’s Graduate School of Journalism.

After graduating, he began his journalism career as a reporter with The Courier-Journal and Louisville Times in Kentucky. Since then, his career blossomed.

He produced news shows such as “Anderson Cooper 360” and “Meet the Press.” Solomon help put the late Tim Russert on “Meet the Press.” He was also a managing editor of ABC’s “Good

Morning America” as well as the first executive producer of “Religious & Ethics Newsweekly,” a PBS/13WNET program.

He began teaching full time in 2004 and became the head of the journalism department at Queens College in 2008.

Solomon is also an adviser on our board. He helped our editors during the best and worst of times. He offered advice and suggested changes moving forward even with the change in staff every few years. Without that, we’re not sure where we would be today.

For most journalism minors, there are fond memories with Solomon. We will always remember laughing along with him as we watched the bloopers of our news segment for his Broadcast Journalism class together or when he brought in pizzas for everyone when we screened them for the first time.

Thank you, Professor Solomon, for all that you have done. You have guided us, taught us so much about journalism and about ourselves as writers. We are sad to see you go, but we wish you best of luck on your next adventure.

You truly are the man.

Want change? Demand privacy.

From the Patriot Act and the exposure of classified government programs to the legality of compelling private companies to bypass security measures in the name of national security, the Fourth Amendment is regularly challenged for security.

The debate over the right to privacy is highlighted by advancements in technology and government surveillance on minority and activist groups across the country.

Privacy and security are often seen at odds with one another. The argument goes like this. The less privacy, the better the government can protect the citizens from threats.

The fear the government monitors and complies the online activity of Americans alters the way people act online and offline.

A recent study by John Penny, a researcher at Oxford University, found, after National Security Agency whistleblower Edward Snowden leaked classified documents revealing the government’s surveillance programs, people have self-censored themselves and become fearful on the internet.

In addition, journalist Glenn Greenwald of The Intercept reported “a 20 percent decline in page views on Wikipedia articles related to terrorism including those that mentioned ‘al-Qaeda,’ ‘car bomb,’ or Taliban.”

But what about groups seeking to bring meaningful change to society?

The ruling class, regardless of party or ideology, seeks a common goal—

maintaining power. Forms of activism and protest, in their eyes, are a threat to keep the status quo.

Freedom of Information Act documents obtained by journalist Jason Leopold of VICE News last year showed the Department of Homeland Security spying on activists involved with the Black Lives Matter movement, including DeRay McKesson.

Today, there are many documented cases of federal and local governments conducting surveillance against activist groups, including here at Queens College.

A few years ago, the New York Police Department was caught infiltrating Muslim Student Associations not only at QC, but also at other CUNY colleges. This created a climate of fear, according to a 2013 report titled “Mapping Muslims: NYPD Spying and its Impact on American Muslims.”

“[People I know] say ‘don’t you go to Queens College? Isn’t that where all the terrorists are?’ They saw it on the news that they were spying on us,” Sameera said, an anonymous QC student said at the time.

It is essential to not only find balance between privacy and security to maintain a free society, but also to ensure that our rights to free speech, press and assembly are not violated.

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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On behalf of the Knight News, we would like to say farewell to our graduating seniors, Brandon Jordan, Albert Roman and Candice Samuels. All the best in your future endeavors!

Jose Vargas talks about changing American identity

BIANCA HE

News Reporter

In 2011, Jose Antonio Vargas, a Pulitzer Prize-winning filmmaker and journalist, made a risky decision—he came out as an undocumented immigrant.

He made this decision not only to liberate himself, but also use his status in media to make an impact on the immigration debate.

“I am really tired of being the minority, and I would argue that there is a new majority, a new mainstream. All of these people that we think are minority are moving together into a mainstream,” Vargas said.

Vargas spoke April 13 at Benjamin S. Rosenthal Library 230 about this and other immigration issues in the United States.

Vargas talked about his bitter, personal experience as an undocumented Filipino immigrant living in the U.S. and how the country is unable to deal with its changing demographics.

“I fly all over the country to remind people that immigration is far more complicated than ‘illegal’ in our minds and the U.S.-Mexican border,” Vargas said.

Vargas not only writes for publications like *The New Yorker* and *Rolling Stone*, but also founded Define American, a non-profit media and cultural organization, and #EmergingUS, a multimedia news platform. He also made a documentary called “White People,” later nominated for a Daytime Emmy.

With #EmergingUS created earlier this year, the outlet provides



PHOTO BY BIANCA HE
Jose Antonio Vargas discussed his experiences being undocumented in America during a lecture to April 13 in the Rosenthal Library.

essays, photos and videos on race, immigration and the complexity of multi-culturalism. Vargas hoped this would unite and represent racial and cultural groups to change the media’s language on race.

“I can’t talk to you about immigrants’ rights and not talk about women’s rights, LGBT rights, Black Lives Matter and income inequality among all races,” he said. “The media doesn’t do that, so I decided to start my own media company.”

But Vargas also noted the power of the youth in changing perspectives on immigrants.

“Nothing changes in this country unless young people are involved,” he said. “When it

comes to immigration, I don’t think we have really engaged young people.”

The 2016 presidential election was also on Vargas’ mind. Despite feeling that immigration as an issue is becoming too political, Vargas praised the efforts of undocumented immigrants in campaigns, including Erika Andiola, the outreach director for the campaign of Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt.

“I think it’s wonderful,” Vargas said. “It’s a testament to the growing power of the undocumented community.”

Vargas viewed Donald Trump, the frontrunner for the Republican Party, as a person evoking activism among people.

“I’m actually grateful that Donald Trump is showing us that,” Vargas said. “If he makes you uncomfortable, say it. If you think it’s unacceptable, say it. Silence is no longer an option, and it’s important that everybody speak out.”

Vargas concluded his talk by talking about citizenship in the U.S. and his view of it.

“I am here illegally, without authorization, but I, as a person, am not illegal,” Vargas said. “I am already in America. I don’t need the piece of paper, the passport to tell me that. I am just waiting for my own country to recognize it.”

Raquel Matias, a senior majoring in mathematics and president of the DREAM Team,

felt that Vargas helped bring more attention to undocumented immigrants.

“Sometimes, if the situation doesn’t affect college students, they won’t be interested. If they aren’t interested, they won’t use their power on behalf of the undocumented community,” Matias said.

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“Shark Tank” event coming to QC

ARYEH GELFAND

News Reporter

TAMID at Queens College will host their second annual TAMID Tank in the Goldstein Theatre on May 11 at 6:00 p.m.

This event, featuring Kevin Harrington of ABC’s hit show “Shark Tank,” gives three New York-based, student-run startups the opportunity to pitch their companies to the “sharks” for a shot at \$100,000 in investment capital.

The TAMID Group is a student-led program at top universities that connects business-minded students with the Israeli economy.

“The Israeli economy is an anomaly. [Israel] a tiny country with a huge amount of innovation, and there is a lot to learn from it,” Shlomo Klahr, project manager of

the QC chapter, said.

TAMID is currently at 29 college campuses across the country and offers students professional development through education, hands-on investing, consulting for Israeli startups and a summer fellowship opportunity in Tel Aviv.

The QC chapter launched in the fall of 2015 after almost a year of organizing.

TAMID’s QC chapter is involved in consulting for two Israel based startups. They are currently doing market research and competitive analysis for a sharing economy app. These apps allow for peer-to-peer based sharing of goods and services.

The relationship between these Israeli startups and U.S college students is mutually beneficial.

“These companies want to

target U.S college-aged kids and it is useful for them to hear our take on things and they really take our opinions into consideration. It’s really a win-win for everyone,” Klahr said.

The event was the brainchild of students who felt that the startup culture is being lost, and college students with big business ideas no longer have the ability make their dreams a reality.

“The startup world has become very corporate. You need a fancy degree and years of experience, and it no longer becomes about your idea or vision. A lot of the startups that we were talking to were having trouble finding funding and people didn’t respect them because they were students,” Klahr said.

Although the event is being held at QC and is heavily advertised on campus, the majority

of applications to participate have been from other colleges. This is exactly what the event seeks to address.

“Going into startups as a career doesn’t seem to be an option around here. The start-up world is such a legitimate choice in today’s economy and it surprised me, getting to college, so many people have the talent and skills to succeed in the start-up world, and it’s just not an option,” Klahr said.

The companies featured at the event all have evaluations up to \$5 million and all passed the “ideation” phase, meaning all of them are currently doing business in some form.

The event could give student-run companies from across New York the forum they need to get the recognition and funding to participate in today’s competitive economy.

Tickets to this event are \$5.00 and available for purchase at www.kupferbergcenter.org.

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Charges of anti-Semitism with activist group at CUNY

BRANDON JORDAN

News Reporter

A year ago, the Zionist Organization of America, a pro-Israel group founded in 1897, received reports of anti-Semitism from Jewish students, Hillel directors and even their own professionals at CUNY.

"These Jewish students, they're afraid to wear yarmulkes [and] Jewish t-shirts," Morton Klein, national president of ZOA, said.

In response, the organization wrote a letter to CUNY demanding they act against Students for Justice in Palestine, the student-led group Klein described as anti-Semitic.

CUNY, in response to ZOA and other state lawmakers demanding action, created two task forces—Task Force on Campus Climate and Working Group on Freedom of Expression.

The Task Force on Campus Climate is led by Queens College President Felix Matos Rodriguez and LaGuardia Community College President Gail Mellow. It will review incidents at different CUNY campuses.

The other task force is led by General Counsel and Senior Vice Chancellor for Legal Affairs Frederick Schaffer. It will create a new free speech policy for the CUNY board of trustees to review and approve.

Both task forces were created after Chancellor James Milliken felt concerned with "recent activities on CUNY campuses." "[CUNY] has consistently and strongly condemned all forms of bigotry and discrimination,

including anti-Semitism, and we will continue to do so," Milliken said.

The Task Force on Campus Climate met with people like Sarah Schulman, an English professor at College of Staten Island and a faculty adviser for SJP at CSI.

Schulman, accused by ZOA of anti-Semitism as well, met with the task force to review allegations pertaining to the Students for Justice in Palestine chapter. She explained one example; SJP members making a swastika at CSI, never happened and were never recorded at the college.

"None of [ZOA's] allegations had any reality. We went through them systematically, and it was clear they were all fabricated or vague," she said.

Schulman explained the accusations directed at SJP were "for show."

"[CUNY] should be treating SJP like any other student group," Schulman said.

State lawmakers are also calling for the suspension of SJP chapters at all CUNY colleges.

Dov Hikind, a Democrat representing Brooklyn in the state Assembly, signed a letter with more than 30 other lawmakers calling for CUNY to suspend SJP. The letter cited anti-Semitism as the reason to ban the chapters.

Hikind explained he heard about an incident at Brooklyn College where students from Students for Justice in Palestine—at a demonstration organized by Brooklyn College Student Coalition—shouted down speakers at a Faculty Council

meeting. One person was alleged to say "Zionist pig" at a chairperson of the meeting.

"The parts that are so disturbing is the intimidation and the fear," Hikind said.

Hikind stressed the issue is not about free speech. Rather, it is about ending intimidation Jewish students feel at CUNY.

"You are not entitled to intimidate other people and cause fear on a campus college," he said.

This is not the first time calls were raised to ban SJP. An online petition with more than 5,000 signatures late last year demanded the CUNY board of trustees ban all SJP chapters.

There are however, legal issues involved with a ban. Radhika Sainath, a lawyer representing SJP chapters at CUNY, criticized lawmakers who are "sworn to uphold the U.S. Constitution" but violate the First Amendment rights of students.

"Real instances of anti-Semitism, just like anti-black and anti-Muslim racism, should be taken very seriously and investigated," she said. "But I have yet to see evidence that such incidents are attributable to speech supporting Palestinian rights. Time and again such accusations, when investigated by universities and government bodies, have been dismissed."

Klein stressed SJP's actions and words were hateful toward Jews. He said CUNY would act differently if the same comments were made toward blacks, gays or Hispanics.

"This is not a freedom of

speech issue. SJP wants to make it that because they can fight it on this basis," he said.

Rebecca Vilkomerson, executive director of Jewish Voice for Peace, explained Zionism and Judaism, in recent decades, were lumped together. However, she said there are Jews who do not identify with Zionism.

"Zionism is about support for a state, while Judaism is about support for a religion," Vilkomerson said.

Vilkomerson noted organizations like Students for Justice in Palestine provide a place for Jews who do not agree with Israel's actions.

"In some ways, I think the growth of SJP is a reflection of that. People are looking for a Jewish home that doesn't require them to defend the state. States will always be criticized. [Yet] Israel can't be criticized," she said.

Klein said Jewish students that are a part of SJP are "the most frightened out of all Jewish people."

"I have nothing but pity for these Jewish people," he said.

ZOA noted it is considering filing a lawsuit under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 that prohibits harassment or discrimination at all public colleges and universities. However, Klein said the organization will await CUNY's investigation and decide whether to do that.

"First, we have to wait for this investigation to be carried through, and then we'll make that decision once the report is released," he said.

Klein feared violence could occur at campuses if nothing is done about the group chapters. He said, based on this, Milliken "should be ashamed of himself" for not outright addressing the group.

"He's really afraid of them," he said.

CUNY's task force will continue its investigation and present its findings to the chancellor and board of trustees. The university did not respond to questions about when this would end.

No SJP chapter at CUNY responded to inquiries by The Knight News.

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Have an opinion on a story we write?

Want to send us a story tip?

Want to send an op-ed?

Email us at info@theknightnews.com

Strike authorization vote to begin

BRANDON JORDAN

News Reporter

While CUNY students prepare for their finals, professors and staff have an assignment of their own—a vote to authorize use of a strike.

The Professional Staff Congress, the union representing more than 25,000 professors and staff at CUNY, notified their members that a vote for a strike authorization will begin from May 2 to 11. The union's vote is a response to the lack of a contract for employees since 2010.

In a message to members, PSC President Barbara Bowen noted the vote does not mean the union will go on strike. But, she explained it would show CUNY it is prepared to get a contract.

“Think about what just happened at California State University. The faculty union held a strike authorization vote last fall, and 94 percent of voters said ‘yes.’ The union then announced that a five-day strike would take place across the huge Cal State system in April. On April 7, less than a week before the strike was scheduled to begin, the university administration met the union's key demand for a higher salary increase,” Bowen said.

The PSC and CUNY met at least 20 times since 2010 for a new contract. But only one offer was given by CUNY on Nov. 4,



PHOTO BY BRANDON JORDAN

CUNY faculty and staff have demonstrated in rallies for a new contract, including the CUNY Rising event on March 10.

which was rejected by the union for offering low salary hikes.

Gerry Martini, assistant director of Admissions at the Graduate Center, is voting yes to authorize a strike. He said he never expected he would choose such a vote.

Martini explained other professors and staff, especially those at CUNY since 2010, have struggled with the cost of living in

New York City.

“In speaking with colleagues, people are really feeling like they are at the end of their rope. Six years without a contract means they have not seen a cost of living increase,” Martini said.

Martini noted students are affected by the lack of a contract. One example is adjuncts, who are paid nearly \$3,000 per course. In addition, some people decline

positions because of low pay.

“In some cases, CUNY students are missing out on faculty,” he said.

Martini stressed the vote does not mean the union will go on strike. Rather, it permits the PSC to have the power to call a strike if members say yes.

“It only means we've given our leadership the authority, if negotiations go beyond saving, to

call a strike in the future,” he said.

The union did note, if members vote yes and no contract is reached, they may go on strike as early as next semester.

But striking in New York is illegal. The state's Taylor Law, passed in 1967, fines unions that decide to go on strike and even the leadership can go to jail.

Earlier this year, CUNY filed a petition with the Public Employment Review Board after it said talks were going nowhere. It said the union's strike authorization vote was the main reason.

“Both sides are participating in an ongoing mediation process with meetings scheduled this month. The university continues to work with state and city officials to secure a fair and equitable contract settlement,” Rita Rodin, a spokesperson for CUNY, said.

Professors and staff can vote over the phone, through mail or on the internet. The union will announce results on May 12.

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Test brings headaches for many student teachers

SERGIO ALBARRACIN

News Reporter

Among the different assessments that potential teachers must take for New York State certification, one is especially controversial for its standards—edTPA.

Developed by Stanford University, the assessment requires students to submit a portfolio that includes of commentaries, student work and at least one video of them teaching. The latter requires parental consent of kids in the video, a challenge for those taking the test.

After New York required its use in 2014, the teacher assessment test was by unions and groups, including the American Federation of Teachers and New York State United Teachers.

Beverly Falk, director of the Graduate Programs in Early Childhood Education at City College of New York, supports edTPA. She explained that, when edTPA was first developed, many educators sought a new teacher assessment test “designed by the profession [and] for the

profession.” This is in contrast to standards created by lawmakers.

“The edTPA was designed to allow prospective teachers demonstrate what they know and could do showing work that they've done with students,” Falk said.

Falk also noted it is better than using fill-in-the-bubble tests to see a student's ability as a teacher.

“In that sense, they are a step forward,” she said.

But David Gerwin, a professor of Social Studies Education at Queens College, disagrees with the test.

“I don't want anyone to force me or my students to take the edTPA,” he said.

Gerwin pointed out the timeline of the test was a major issue. It was first announced in 2012 and then required for graduates two years later. This meant there was not enough time to enact the program without problems, which Falk agreed on.

“The implementation time did not provide enough opportunity or time for people to prepare the program or their

students,” Falk said.

In addition, the Race To The Top plan, first proposed by President Barack Obama's administration, is cited as a contributor to edTPA's rise.

The executive program provided \$5 billion in funding for states that improve their education system. New York decided to enact edTPA for the funding. The state received more than \$700 million from Race To The Top.

“Those of us who supported having a performance assessment for teacher certification had no control or influence over the state education department,” Falk said.

Korell Pierson, a professor at the Brooklyn Lab School and QC alum that graduated in May 2014, was one of the first students to take edTPA as a requirement. He was also one of the first to fail.

“We didn't have enough time to prep for it,” he said.

He recalled, throughout his program, many teachers did not know much about edTPA or how to prepare students for it. As a result, teachers taught as much as they could.

“Everything was being

unveiled right at the time of it being implemented,” Pierson said.

Before graduating, a job was available for Pierson after he received his certification. However, after receiving the results of the edTPA and waiting to take ATS-W, the school season started and he did not get the job. Pierson was forced to become a substitute teacher. Today, he is the Chairperson of the Social Studies Department at Brooklyn Lab School.

Zoe Spanos, 26, and John Spanos, 30, are siblings and seniors majoring in education at QC and must take edTPA.

The two decided to create an online petition against edTPA, which more than 700 people signed.

“There's no proof that it's effective,” Zoe Spanos said.

“EdTPA is all about rubrics and putting you in this box. It's not very realistic,” John Spanos said.

They also said edTPA takes away from the learning experience and focuses more on testing.

“You want to learn as much as you can from the teachers. But,



Social identity expressed through fashion

CHEYNA MULLIGAN

News Reporter

The Center for Ethnic, Racial and Religious Understanding's Social Identity Fashion Show took place April 13 in the Student Union Ballroom where stereotypes were broken and minds were opened.

CERRU is a non-partisan organization created in 2009 that provides services for both the campus and the community to discuss and surpass alienating issues.

They assist students and faculty to approach differences with an open mind and to handle issues with understanding. CERRU hosts events and investigates numerous outlooks on controversial issues, perspectives, social matters and diversity.

Food and beverages were provided as well as a DJ. The environment provided a sense of welcoming and entertainment for the audience.

This year's show featured 16 models whose identities ranged from Bengali to Chinese. The Queens College Textiles and Apparel Program, the Queens College community, members from the Queensboro Hill Flushing Civic Association and even some of the models themselves created the models' looks.

Each model walked the runway twice with a different look each time. The first look represented an assumption people usually make of them based on



PHOTO BY JONATHAN BARON

The Center for Ethnic, Racial and Religious Understanding's Social Identity Fashion Show took place on April 13 where models broke stereotypes and false assumptions through fashion.

their backgrounds, appearances, cultures and first impressions. Their second look showed how they see themselves as well as their actual social identities, conflicts and personal beliefs.

Anastacia Pal, a junior political science major, admired the concept of the models wearing two looks.

"I think it makes a huge statement on how society creates false assumptions about someone based on their appearance. What is crucial is the core of one's character, not their appearance.

It was an incredible experience sitting in the audience watching the models express themselves in ways others may not see," Pal said.

The fashion show also contained performances from QC students. Dance routines and musical performances offered the audience cultural entertainment.

After the show, a select few models sat and answered questions from the audience. Several questions required the models to express how they felt about the show as well as how they feel about the stereotypes they are

affiliated with. They described the looks they personally designed themselves and how they think they present themselves.

Emmanuel Mensah, a junior media studies major, said the fashion show gave him a better understanding of diversity overall.

"I love how they brought awareness and diversity into one. It gave me a better understanding of where the models were coming from when some of them talked about how they embraced their culture in the show. It's a great way to beat the stereotypes," Mensah

said.

The master of ceremonies of the event, Michele Jackson, a senior political science and philosophy major, has a strong passion for raising awareness in racial and social identity.

"Being the MC was an incredible experience. I got the opportunity to speak to some of the models one-on-one backstage. Having been a model two years ago, it was amazing to see and feel their energy, and learn their stories about their social identity," Jackson said.

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QC Hillel provides services to Jewish students

ERICA FINOCCHIO

News Reporter

Hillel is growing each year and serves over 1,270 students, a 10 percent increase in new students from last year.

But what is Hillel?

Located in room 206 of the Student Union, Hillel offers prayer service, computer access, lectures, scripture readings and even video games for students to enjoy. Access to internships, scholarships and jobs are also available through the Queens College Career Services department.

Hillel, an organization on campus that provides services for the Jewish community at QC, received the outstanding campus award in December.

The Executive Director at Hillel is Uri Cohen. Cohen worked at Hillel for over four years. The previous director was Rabbi Moshe Shur, who served as

director for 32 years.

"I feel so fortunate to be director at Hillel," Cohen said. "Receiving the Hillel Outstanding Campus award says a lot about the QC students and it motivates us to do even better going forward."

Cohen brought many changes to Hillel, such as renovating the group's space in the summer of 2013, increasing its budget to almost double what it used to be and bringing more financial resources to Jewish life on campus.

"We overhauled the staff and programmatic direction, focusing on peer-to-peer relationship building as the key to building community and encouraging new students to get involved" Cohen said.

Jackie Shapiro, 25, is the Associate Director of Development at Hillel and attended Hillel when she was a student at QC.

"Hillel has changed over the

past few years and has become more inclusive and pluralistic in how much it embraces Jewish values," Shapiro said.

One can explore their Jewish heritage further with the Birthright trip, during which students travel to Israel with a group. Airfare, accommodations, and some meals are provided for by Birthright Israel. One hundred students from QC attend the trip each year.

Ezro Yadgarov, a senior majoring in psychology, is a student who regularly attends Hillel.

"Hillel has been a great experience," Yadgarov said. "I have connected a lot with my peers, made new friends and long lasting connections."

Hillel partnered with the Orthodox Union and the programming is student driven. Jenna Citron is the Director of Jewish Student Life and Ruben Shimonov serves as the Cross-

Community Engagement Coordinator.

Hillel's focus is on student life, community building and leadership development and it is connected with some of the other Jewish groups on campus, including the Israel Student Association, Jewish Learning Fellowship, Persian Club, Israel Business Club, Tizmoret and Bukharian Club.

Yasmin Pinhasov-Malaev, a junior studying communication science disorders, is the founder of the Bukharian Club and serves as the president. The club focuses on Bukharian culture in Judaism.

"I've noticed throughout the past two years I have been at Hillel that it has gone from being purely religious to a club with more diversity," Pinhasov-Malaev said.

Elan Pinhasov-Malaev, a sophomore studying liberal arts, is Yasmin's brother and attends events that the Bukharian club

holds each month.

"This club helps you socialize and reunite Jewish culture," he said. "It has big potential because there is a big community."

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Rabbi Moshe Shur—activist, musician and friend

BIANCA HE

News Reporter

Rabbi Moshe Shur was the first one to arrive Jan. 17 at LaGuardia Airport to wait for his students for a trip he arranged called “In the Footsteps of Dr. King.”

Throughout the five-day trip, Shur’s face beamed every time a staff member in the airport or a tour guide appreciated his work as they saw the name of the program on the business cards he handed out. He then gave them a handshake or hug, and invited them to visit QC.

“I wanted to do something which is what I would call an ‘experiential education,’” Shur said. “Going to historical places has a different effect on people than looking at a book.”

Shur worked with the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in Atlanta, Georgia in the 1960s. Half a century later, he started a program that brings students to Georgia and Alabama during the week of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Every year, they visit major sites of the civil rights movement, talk to civil rights leaders and learn about Dr. King’s deeds.

Rather than acting like a history professor, Shur behaved more similarly to what he was in the 1960’s—a student activist. When he was visiting the museums, he checked every exhibition room carefully as though it was his first time. When he was in the march, he was always in the front of the procession, chanting whatever slogans he came up with, such as “Queens College, freedom for knowledge.”

Shur’s memory about what happened in the South during the 1960s remains fresh. From 1965 to 1966, through the Summer



PHOTO COURTESY OF SIANA STONE

Rabbi Moshe Shur worked with the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and volunteered in the south when he was a college student.

Community Organization and Political Education Project initiated by Dr. King, he spent two summers in Atlanta as president of all college students who traveled from the North to help African-Americans register to vote.

Shur described Dr. King as a strong, charismatic and inspirational figure. Dr. King inspired Shur to become a college Rabbi and spread the values he learned to even more people.

“Dr. King has dreamed of social justice and equality for all mankind and I think each generation has to pursue that. If something happens that is not like that, you have to stand up and make it happen,” Shur said.

Shur said that his Jewish identity played a role in his decision to volunteer in the South

when he was a college student.

“It’s a part of the Jewish tradition to feel empathy with people who are persecuted because the Jewish people were slaves thousands of years ago in Egypt. I felt empathy with what Dr. King was trying to do in the civil rights movement,” Shur said.

Apart from being an adjunct professor at QC, he is also an emeritus director of Queens College Hillel, an organization for Jewish students.

Uri Cohen is the Executive Director of QC Hillel, a position since 2011. He is grateful for Shur’s 33-year leadership at QC Hillel.

“When I got here, I found a huge Jewish population which means that Jewish students have been comfortable being here

for a long time, and Rabbi Shur has something to do with that,” Cohen said.

Shur was once asked to speak in front of the New York City Council to suggest how officials could help Jewish students on campus. Instead of thinking only of the Jewish community, Shur addressed a more urgent concern—he suggested building a washing station in the bathrooms for the Muslim students, which is an important part of their rituals.

“It takes a special kind of person to do that,” Cohen said. “He took an opportunity like that and used it in the benefit of the others. It was really typical of Rabbi Shur.”

Shur has never let go of his passion—music. He is the lead vocalist of a rock music band with

his two sons and shares songs through his YouTube channel, Moshe Shur. He held a concert at LeFrak Hall and sang many songs he wrote, such as “Hafachta.”

Shur was actively involved in starting Tizmoret, a QC Hillel professional Jewish a cappella group, which is already in its 20th year and produced six CDs.

Shur can take on topics as serious as human rights, but he is also a man with a strong sense of humor, which is what makes him approachable and magnifies his influence on people around him.

During the “In the Footsteps of Dr. King” trip, in a meeting with the first African-American judge in Alabama, U. W. Clemon, Shur asked his students, most of whom were seniors, to introduce themselves. When it was his turn, he said, “Well, I am a real senior,” making everyone, including the judge, laugh.

Siana Stone, a QC student life coordinator who planned the trip with Shur, said working with him was always fun.

“My favorite thing is when he says, ‘It’s a Shur thing... get it?’” Stone said.

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A battle of the pens and keyboards

DARIA KACZOROWSKA

News Reporter

From handwriting to tablets, students have many ways to take notes, and the choice seems unimportant and insignificant.

But new findings show the choice of note taking is not just about comfort, but also how to register information in the brain.

In a study conducted by Pam Muller of Princeton University and Daniel Oppenheimer of UCLA, researchers found college students taking notes by hand perform better in recalling information than students who type their notes.

This phenomenon is known as the encoding hypothesis that finds people process information

when they write it down.

Many students agree technology may distract and hinder them from learning in the classroom.

Joshua Megnauth, a senior majoring in political science, agreed handwriting notes is more effective despite taking more time. He explained there is something liberating about handwriting compared to using technology.

“You can scrawl anywhere you want in any direction you want, for any reason you want, or even doodle in the margins during a lull. I’m a computer nerd, but I handwrite my notes precisely because I don’t want a computer in school to distract me with its allure of games or news,” Megnauth said.

Seo-Young Chu, an English professor at Queens College, said while professors have mixed feelings with technology in the classroom, the method of note taking depends on the type of course. For example, in her honors seminar this year, students could type or handwrite their essays in blue books. Just one student choose to write it by hand.

“I think that the place of the laptop in the classroom depends on the class, the instructor, the assignment and even the configuration of chairs in the room,” she said. “Notes by hand can inscribe information in the mind more effectively than typing can. However, the practice of typing notes has its

own advantages—among them legibility and efficiency. Personally, I incorporate a mix of note-taking media from chalkboards to camera phone pictures.”

Madel Beaudouin, a senior majoring in economics and political science, ruled out the possibility of becoming an avid tablet user.

“I prefer to write by hand because it helps me remember my notes more effectively,” Beaudouin said.

Likewise, Sara Dorfman, a senior history major, said, although typing is the faster route, handwriting her notes is better in the long run despite messiness or bad handwriting.

“For the most part, I prefer

to write my notes by hand. It takes me a bit longer and my handwriting is terrible, which means my notes look like garbage, but I tend to remember more of what I’m actually writing. When I’m typing my notes, it’s quicker, but it all seems like a blur when I try to remember anything that I typed,” Dorfman said.

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Privacy paramount for social movements on campus

ASHER HOROVITZ

News Reporter

The digital privacy of students at Queens College is a controversial topic for social activist groups on campus.

QC employs multiple levels of network security, requiring usernames and passwords to access the network, according to Claudia Colbert, assistant vice president for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer,

In addition, Colbert said the network is policed using tools that continuously monitor network traffic to identify malware, botnets and other forms of malicious behavior.

Ali Wassem, a sophomore and accounting and finance major, said he is more focused on his education, but digital privacy and surveillance is a concern.

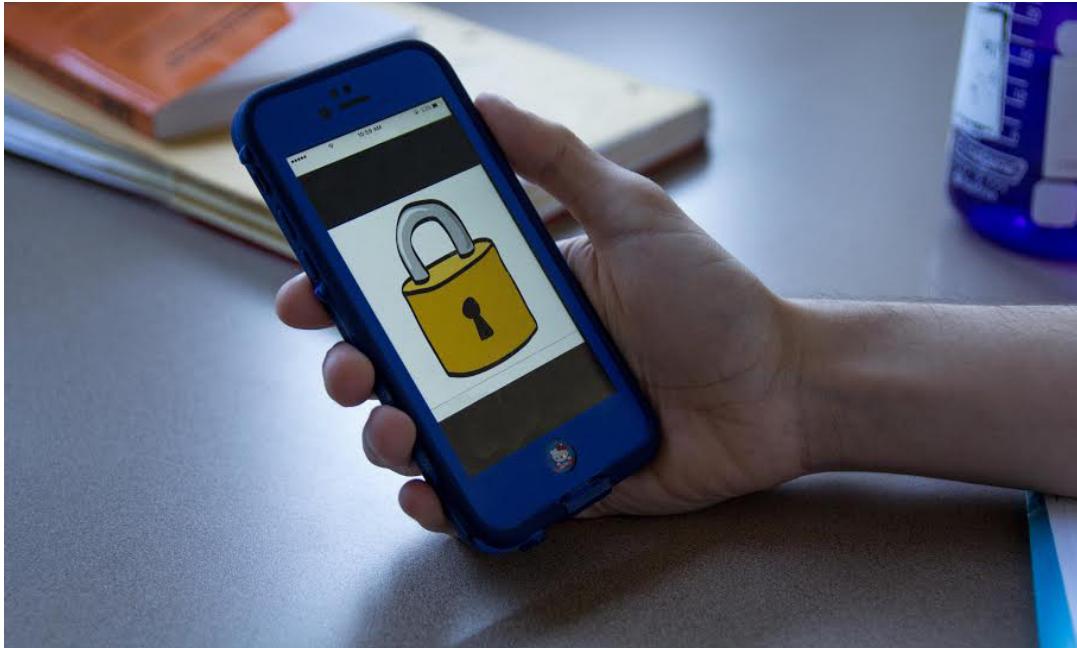
“We’ve had informants inside [Muslim Student Association], and it is scary,” Wassem said.

Wassem is the president of the MSA at QC. While he did not take any digital security measures, Wassem said he knows students who have placed tape over their laptop webcams.

“I believe [the government] has the right to ensure the safety of civilians, but it is wrong to target student organizations who have only done good,” Wassem said.

Colbert said QC does not collect student data nor is any data sold to third parties. But some privacy activists believe there exists further improvements.

Shahid Buttar, director of Grassroots Advocacy for the



Privacy is considered an important issue for many people, including those with smartphones.

Electronic Frontier Foundation, recommends students take additional measures, such as using browser add-on Privacy Badger to help protect them from being tracked online.

He also explained students educate and inform each other about privacy issues, organize student campaigns seeking greater transparency into their school’s existing data practices and build support for college libraries to run tor nodes to give anonymity student journalists and activists.

Buttar referred to the controversial and sometimes illegal Counter Intelligence Program as evidence that surveillance concerns are warranted. COINTELPRO was a sophisticated vigilante operation aimed squarely at

preventing the exercise of First Amendment rights of speech and association according to a Senate investigative committee.

The program, which was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, ran for 30 years, monitoring and infiltrating groups such as civil rights activists, Vietnam War protesters and feminist organizations.

Buttar says students still need to take caution, especially if they participate in social activism. Buttar believes students should be wary of both scammers and the government.

“The NYPD infiltrated college campuses for years,” Buttar said.

Dulce Hernandez, a junior studying graphic design

said surveillance of student organizations is not of high concern.

Hernandez is the president of the QC DREAM Team, an organization for undocumented students and allies.

“We are not really concerned about the possibility of surveillance [since] CUNY security protects our students around campus,” Hernandez said.

However, Hernandez said some club members might be concerned outside of campus because of their vulnerable status.

“Some members of our club are undocumented and may have experienced threats of deportation,” Hernandez said.

Buttar explained that social movements require the

ability to operate freely without the fear of being monitored. He believes federal observation compromises not only privacy, but also democracy and personal autonomy.

“As the leading edge of many social movements, students are particularly targeted for surveillance,” Buttar said.

He felt concern that surveillance ultimately leads to censorship.

“If you can’t hear from everyone, you have lost democracy,” Buttar said

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PHOTO BY JONATHAN BARON

NYC Men Teach aims to address racial disparities among teachers

PHIL VALLONE

News Reporter

Research shows that students benefit from being taught by those with similar life experiences.

As part of his Young Men’s Initiative, Mayor Bill de Blasio recently announced NYC Men Teach, a program designed to increase the number of male teachers of color in the city’s public school system.

According to the city’s website, the YMI was founded in 2011 “to address the increasing economic and social disparities faced by black and Latino young men.”

It is estimated that by 2020 a majority of U.S. children will be non-white. NYC Men Teach hopes to address this changing diversity in its city’s classrooms by adding an additional 1,000 non-white men to the teaching

workforce by 2017.

Nationally, just two percent of the teaching workforce in America is made up of black men and 80 percent of the public school teachers in America are women.

In New York, black, Latino and Asian men make up only 8.3 percent of NYC public school teachers despite the fact 43 percent of students in these schools are non-white males.

Last year, the Washington Post reported men of color are frequently turned off by teaching because of the negative experiences in their past. Only six percent of recent applicants for teaching positions in New York schools were men of color.

The \$16.5 million initiative will work with the City University of New York to promote teaching as a career and to ensure undergraduate students complete

the necessary certifications.

YMI Deputy Executive Director Ifeoma Ike spoke of the challenges faced by the YMI board and their commitment to influencing change within the city.

“Our challenge—to make sustainable improvements for the young people we serve—is great and we need all partners on deck. Change doesn’t occur in silos. It occurs through the collective effort of the determined. We are fortunate to have such an esteemed board, and are looking forward to what our collective efforts produce,” Ike said.

The board believes a more diverse field of teachers will promote better academic performance and break down stereotypes.

Deputy Mayor for Strategic Policy Initiatives Richard Buery explained that the future of the

city’s youth population and the city itself benefits from a more diverse teaching workforce.

“Each member appointed to the YMI Board knows that it’s not only the future of these young men at risk, but the future of our city. I’m excited to work with the YMI board on strategies that get beneath the surface of the issues our black and Latino men are facing and into solutions that will significantly change their lives and our city for the better,” Buery said.

De Blasio is hopeful the YMI board will continue to work hard to promote diversity in the city’s schools.

“I am confident that this Board will continue to advance the YMI mission, and will serve as an ambassador in sharing the message that we can and will improve the environments and experiences of black and Latino young men

throughout NYC,” de Blasio said.

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FOOD REVIEW

This spring: Amazin' deep fried cheesecake and ice cream

JAKE COHEN

Food Critic

Citi Field hits a homerun this spring with deep fried ice cream sandwiches and deep fried, New York-style cheesecake.

Since its completion in 2009, Citi Field offers dining options that mirrored many modern ballparks offering anything from sushi to craft beer and gourmet barbecue. This season, the Mets have added some carnival classics to the menu.

Located in section 130 next to Keith's Grill, you will find a concession stand selling deep fried, New York-style cheese cake and deep fried ice cream sandwiches. Carnival food, like candy apples and funnel cakes, create the same nostalgia as ballpark classics like hotdogs and roasted peanuts.

Both the ice cream sandwiches and the cheesecake are fried in the same batter, using flour and baking soda that is typically used to fry Twinkies and candy bars, leaving the final result crispy and delicious.

The cheesecake becomes slightly warmed and melty thanks to the deep frying process. This accentuates the rich and creamy



Citi Field offers deep fried cheesecake and ice cream for fans to enjoy while watching the Mets this season.

PHOTO BY JAKE COHEN

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texture of the cake. Likewise, the deep frying process for the vanilla ice cream sandwiches causes the chocolate chips to melt and the cookie to warm. The end result is sweet, cold ice cream and melted chocolate, making an excellent complement to the warm, crunchy

and savory batter.

Baseball fans with a sweet tooth will surely enjoy these treats, while fans craving something richer and more savory will prefer cheesecake. Whatever you choose, do not forget the delicious powdered sugar; a must

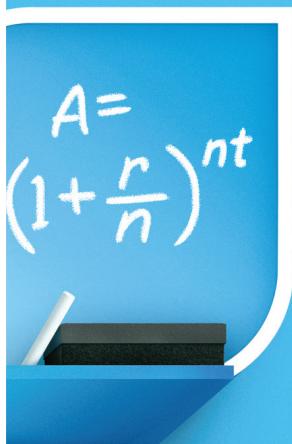
for anyone enjoying a tasty treat at the ball game.

Any adult eating ice cream out of a helmet at a Mets game will attest to the nostalgia that these treats bring out. The ability of modern baseball parks to connect the sport's rich past with

the offering of modern amenities is something highly anticipated. In an era of high-definition television and premium seating, carnival classics are a reminder of days past.

Citi Field is located just three miles north of the Queens College campus. The stadium is conveniently located next to the Mets-Willets Point stop on the 7 train and \$10 tickets are available for games Monday through Friday with a Queens College ID.

While peanuts and Cracker Jacks will continue to be fan favorites at ballgames, deep fried cheesecake and ice cream sandwiches have been added to the list of classic snacks that can be consumed when enjoying America's favorite pastime.



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A dream-like play by students to begin

CHRISTINA CARDONA

News Reporter

The Queens College Theatre Guild will begin their production of “Cloud Tectonics,” a play written by Jose Rivera, at The Little Theatre in King Hall on May 19 at 7:30 p.m.

The play explores the relationship between three characters, Celestina del Sol, played by Victoria Gomez, Nelson de la Luna, played by Michael Alvarado and Anibal de la Luna, played by Christopher Guevara.

“The play begins when a lonely romantic, Anibal, picks up a beautiful and very pregnant hitchhiker, who, over the course of one night, opens his mind to a new perception of time and a truer meaning of love,” Rina Dutta, the play’s director and a senior theatre major, said.

Magic realism is a genre that combines elements of dream or fantasy on stage with naturalistic techniques. Dutta said she wanted to experiment with the use of imagery and lighting to create a dream-like feel.

“Lighting design will play a huge part in transporting the audience to the world the play alludes to and things that aren’t physically in the space, but brought in through the character’s imagination,” she said.

This is Dutta’s first play as a director. It is also a student-run play, which means the crew is in charge of things—budgeting, ticket sales, design and more—a faculty-led production would usually handle.

“This rehearsal process is certainly unlike any other I’ve ever experienced,” Dutta said. “But, then again, this is the first time I’m directing something. It’s wonderful, changing, building on itself, exploding, dying and being reborn. Each day is completely different from the last.”

The play takes place in Echo Park in Los Angeles, Calif., in 1995. The characters take shelter inside Anibal’s apartment from a storm called “The Storm of the Century.” Anibal and Nelson are brothers that fall in love with Celestina, a 54-year-old woman pregnant for two years and looking for the baby’s father.

“I think my character is awkward and weird, yet graceful, which makes her loveable and attractive,” Gomez, a senior drama theatre and studio art major, said. “She isn’t on the same wavelength as everyone else in society. The audience will get sucked in time



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE QUEENS COLLEGE THEATRE GUILD
“Cloud Tectonics,” a magic realism play revolving around time and the power of love, will begin on May 19 at 7:30 p.m. at The Little Theater in King Hall.

the way the characters do.”

Nelson is Anibal’s younger brother, a character Alvarado, a sophomore majoring in sociology and theater, explained was full of energy.

“He’s charming [and] a lovable guy. He’s energetic [and] brings life to everyone around him,” Alvarado said. “But this is replaced with darkness after he comes back from war in the second scene he’s in.”

Meanwhile, Anibal struggles with protecting himself, while opening up to someone.

“He wants to be touched, more than just a sexual way. It’s

not until he finds Celestina that he knows, in absolute certainty, this is what love feels like, and it’s through what she is able to pull out of him,” Guevara, a senior theatre major, said.

Dutta said she wants the audience to try to see what love is through Celestina’s eyes.

“Here’s an example of what students can do when left to their own devices—a glimpse into the future of art. Not to be cheesy, but we are the future and the future is now. Then, there’s the play itself. The language stands alone so beautifully that to have it heightened through the medium

of theatre—to have it pass through the hearts of so many artists—and then given to the hearts of the audience [is magical],” Dutta said.

There will be a total of four shows. Aside from the performance on May 19, there are two on May 21 at 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. The final production will be on May 22 at 3:00 p.m. Students can purchase tickets for \$10 and an hour before the shows begins.

“People should come see this play because it’s a production done by students. It shows the dedication and the hard work that we’re all doing. We’re working with

what we got and we’re making it work,” Alvarado said. “People should expect a damn good show.”

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Exploring the military and civilian divide on campus

EDIS RADONCIC

News Reporter

A forum for student veterans and civilians was held on April 15 at the Intersections International Office in Manhattan.

Thirty-three year old student veteran, Patrick Donahue, spoke at the event. He is a United States Army veteran and described the struggles he faced in college.

"I had my ups and downs just like everyone in life. Back in high school, I graduated with a 67 average. I was a class clown and was put in Special Education," Donahue said.

My mother had to stay with me in class so I would not act up. I started going to college in 1999 and my GPA was a 1.1. I dropped out numerous times, was introduced to marijuana, and joined the military."

Donahue stated he was taking medication for post-traumatic stress disorder in order for him to go to class. While in school, he started a fraternity and received an associate's degree last year, graduating with a 4.0 GPA. He is currently pursuing his bachelor's degree and plans to go to law school.

"These days, everything is so different with going back to school and seeing these kids who are much younger than me always complaining in class. At the time, I wanted to re-integrate with the



PHOTO BY EDIS RADONCIC
Veterans, like Patrick Donahue above, shared their experiences at a forum at the Intersections International office in Manhattan on April 15.

civilians, and I really made sure that I turned it around. I was no longer 'crazy' Donahue with the PTSD," Donahue said.

Dukens Chery, 34, also spoke at the event. Chery joined the Army in 2002 and served in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Right now, I am graduating from Nassau Community College, and I am getting my associate's degree. I applied to many colleges,

and I got accepted to Hunter College. But I am planning on transferring to NYU to get my bachelor's degree in political science. I want to go to law school and become a lawyer," Chery said.

Emma Cardner, who works for Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, explained the significance of the Military Resilience Project, a program that aims to ease the transition of

veterans back into society.

"The Military Resilience Project builds a bridge between students and veterans. Veterans who go to campus can expect to socialize with others who have served," Cardner said.

Event attendees were shown a number of videos portraying veterans being stereotyped by civilians.

They were then asked to

form four groups and to re-enact a scene where a veteran is being stereotyped by the general public, an exercise that forced attendees to sympathize with the formation of such stereotypes.

The event concluded with veterans and civilians sharing their thoughts on how the two groups can co-exist with one another.

"I'm so much more than a veteran. There is so much more to me than that. I believe that if people can accept similarities more than differences then it can really make a difference in perception," Donahue said.

Barbara Thompson is a veteran spokesperson and former CUNY professor. She helped over 300 veterans transition to civilian life. She explained the importance of veterans taking the necessary steps to transition back into society after leaving the service.

"It is important that we educate veterans to be civilians again. It is what I always told my students who are veterans. Participate in sports or any social activity that can remind them what life was like before joining military life," Thompson said.

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Music provides little understanding of wars post 9/11

CHRISTOPHER PEREZ

News Reporter

The relationship between war and music in the post-9/11 era is different than during the height of the Vietnam War.

On April 28, Columbia University hosted an event called "Soundtrack of War," which examined the parallels between music and the wars in Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan. Service Together, an organization that seeks to bridge the gap between veterans and civilians, organized the event.

The music of the 1960s gave listeners, present and future, an understanding of the conflict and politics of the time. The same cannot be said of the wars following Sept. 11.

In terms of the war and the politics around it, veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan have little connection to the popular mainstream music of the 21st century as it relates to their experiences.

They have no musicians like Marvin Gaye, Pete Seeger, Creedence Clearwater Revival

or Buffalo Springfield. No recognition in terms of pride or protest.

The event included performances by singer-songwriter Brandon Mills, Eli Smith from Down Home Radio and Peter Stampfel of the Holy Modal Rounders.

The host, Molly Pearl, raised the questions, including what contemporary tracks define the war in Iraq and Afghanistan? Why is there a lack of protest music in the mainstream?

Pearl said most people cite the lack of draft in this era as a major reason for societies disconnect from the war and its veterans, but does not believe the answer is that straightforward.

With the lack of a draft and reliance on a 100 percent voluntary military force, society has less "skin in the game." The American government is more likely to use military force with an all-volunteer military than it will with a drafted military.

Students and faculty of Queens College offered their

own personal experiences and explanations to the contemporary relationship of music and war.

James Marone, 27, a junior majoring in English is a Marine Corps veteran. Marone served in Afghanistan from 2011 to 2012. His experience with music, while deployed was described as a melting pot.

"The taste in music over there is as diverse as our society. I happen to like EDM," Marone said.

Another QC veteran, Dennis Torres, 31, is the Veteran Outreach Specialist at QC. Torres served in the Marine Corps for 10 years. He deployed twice to Iraq, first in 2006 to Fallujah and again in 2009 to Al-Anbar along the Syrian border.

"For the individual Marine, soldier, or sailor, it's inspirational or motivational. [Music] gets you through the day, because there are days where it sucks," Torres said.

Hundred plus degree-weather, you have no food, you have no water. You're getting shot at. The stress is ridiculous. For me, when I had a chance to

listen to music it allowed me to decompress."

Growing up in a Latin home, Torres' connection to Spanish music helped him during his deployment to Fallujah.

"[The] 2006 [deployment] was a more stressful deployment for me," Torres said. "The only thing that allowed me to go to sleep, like legitimately allow me to go to sleep, was Spanish music."

Dr. Edward Smaldone is a professor of music at QC and the Director of Aaron Copland School of Music. He thinks the lack of contemporary music during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan is because of what he thinks recording artists care about the most when they release music.

"Frankly, my own personal theory, most artists' are more interested in selling records or downloads than they are in a particular political statement," Smaldone said.

Susan Hulluaer is an adjunct professor at QC who teaches about protest music. She says that music follows a capitalist crowd.

"It all depends on the

popularity of the musician and the popularity of a particular cause," Helluaer said. "Aligning with a cause can sell music, or it can put a singer in a difficult position. Remember, the music industry is about one thing and one thing only: money."

Helluaer however, has noticed a change in the trend music has followed from the 1960s to today.

"Now that more artists are producing their own recordings, rather than relying on a big label to make the recording and market it, new rules are being written as we speak. Big labels don't have the power they used to have, nor does Top 40 radio," said Helluaer.

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OP-ED

Saying goodbye is never simple

BY BRANDON JORDAN

After joining a newspaper four years ago with zero knowledge of journalism, I am confident to leave with an incredible depth of strategies and lessons from my teachers, colleagues and friends.

I can remember Welcome Day in 2012. I finished four years of speech and debate in high school where I grew from a shy, reserved person to one of the best debaters in New York State. I even assumed leadership for two years.

I felt eager to try something new and see how I could go. Out of all the clubs, just two caught my attention. One was a political group, the other was The Knight News.

I read political websites like Alternet, Salon, In These Times, Firedoglake and The Nation in high school, so I figured a newspaper would fit me well. Despite not writing on national news stories, a blessing in disguise, I was interested in learning more.

I decided to avoid a journalism minor because I considered writing a hobby and was preoccupied by my two majors and minor. Besides, my love for economics and political science was too strong, and I could not walk away from it.

At first, I struggled with the style given. What was AP Style? What's a lede? Who are all of these people?

Eventually, I began to learn more from the editors in my first and second year. I read journalists like Kevin Gosztola and Alexa

O'Brien to learn more about writing. It worked.

Fast forward to 2013, a time when I got my first job. What exactly it is, I am not sure. It is either working at an animal shelter or Firedoglake, a national news outlet. I prefer the latter.

Firedoglake taught me a lot about being a writer and living in a community, especially working besides people like Kit O'Connell, Jane Hamsher Kevin Gosztola and, of course, my editor Ellie Elliott. I learned so much there, and it felt like a class I never wanted to end. It is the best event to happen to me during college, and no one can take that away from me.

The lessons I learned at the site became my guide when I led the newspaper in September 2014. Jaime Zahl and I shared the title of Editor-in-Chief, and knew we needed to increase publication and content. Before us, we only published a few issues and staff was nearly 10 people.

Things did not start off smoothly. Financial issues, seeking out new people and more made it difficult at first. But, eventually, we were on the same page and pushed forth with a set system.

In the meantime, my writing improved. I began to think more about my topics and followed stories I felt were not covered well. This helped a lot in my career today, and something I still follow.

Yet, more importantly, I entered a leadership position that I knew would come with

pressure and challenges. The best part of what I enjoyed as a leader was working with my colleagues and even new people writing for the newspaper without much experience. I sympathized with their experience considering I was in the same position years before.

Regardless, we accomplished a lot at the newspaper. Perhaps my favorite achievement, out of many of course, is the nomination of the Associated Collegiate Press' Story of the Year award.

Personally, I felt proud by the fact we received such a nomination as it reflected our ability to achieve something grand. The efforts through copy editing, layout, editing and more are often not shown in our newspaper. But this award showed the changes we made paid off, and I am proud of that.

The past few months have gone by without me giving much thought of leaving something I was a part of for four years. However, when Sarah Jaffe visited for an event we held, it slowly dawned on me that it was all over. I would never write again for a student-run newspaper that I worked with others to create and craft.

What's comforting is this will not end. The structure we set up is similar to a worker cooperative among the editorial staff and the journalists working for us will undoubtedly benefit from a growing profile for the newspaper. Even I'm surprised who reads the newspaper outside of the campus.

Of course, I fear for the journalism field. You can't go too far without someone calling for the doom of print journalism or event digital too. News sites like BuzzFeed and The Guardian are laying off their employers. Even Al-Jazeera America, called as a "freaking stimulus package" for journalists by Jaffe years ago, closed down its studios after mismanagement and shrinking revenues by the Qatari government.

It makes me wonder whether it's still responsible to speak with students about joining the media field.

The answer? It is.

The writing involved is challenging, but rewarding. Working with a team is such a unique experience. Even meeting others on campus, small little worlds as I like to imagine it, is wonderful.

I am thankful for my team here. It was just four years ago that I joined the newspaper and, in compensating for my lack of journalism knowledge, used lessons from music to train myself for each story. I still use such lessons of course, but am now confident in sharing my knowledge of the field.

I do not like writing op-eds, commentaries or, the dreaded, thinkpiece. But, I feel like recapping my experience here is so important. It is a piece of me leaving after all.

Without this paper, I'm not sure my college experience

would have been so worthwhile as it was today. So thank you to all who made it what it is, and I hope the seeds we've planted in the newspaper take root as magnificent flowers in the future.

Brandon Jordan is a senior majoring in political science and economics. He is the Editor-in-Chief of The Knight News.

All op-eds are published unedited

If you want to submit one

please email us at

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REVIEWS

Batman v. Superman: Dawn of Nihilism

JAKE COHEN

Film Critic

Director Zack Snyder swings big with “Batman v. Superman: Dawn of Justice.” Unfortunately, he only lands a base hit.

The film is like receiving a bad Christmas gift from a loved one. You know they spent a lot of time and money trying to give you something awesome, so you try to put on a smile for them so as to not hurt their feelings.

There are moments that will make audience smile and cheer. However, there are simply not enough of them in this 150-minute slog of a blockbuster.

There are some bright spots in the film – every time Wonder Woman graces the screen or when Batman dispenses a warehouse full of criminals. This is surprising, considering the resources that Snyder had at his disposal.

What else is surprising is a film that tries so hard to fill every frame with gravitas does not have many moments that make the viewer swell with emotion. One would expect the contrary from a film that borrows so heavily from mythology and theology.

Instead of embracing the



PHOTO COURTESY OF WARNER BROS. PICTURES

Major League Soccer player David Villa (second from the right) announced partnership with QC on April 13.

modern mythology of comic book super heroes, Snyder creates a nihilistic noirish world devoid of humor and joy. In this world, the spectacle of superheroes does not illicit joy but rather fear and carnage. Warner Brothers is hell-bent on setting their universe apart from Marvel Studios, tonally.

“Batman v. Superman” is so grim and serious that it does not even have an end credit stinger,

despite moviegoers’ coming to expect them at the conclusion of comic book movies. Ironically, the final scene before the credits would have worked as a great post credit stinger.

Snyder probably thought a post-credit stinger would undermine the serious tone of his film. After all, he is fond of saying, “This isn’t your daddy’s Superman.”

“Batman v. Superman: Dawn of Justice” and the Zack Snyder film, “Watchmen,” are both faithful to their comic book source material they bring entire panels to life. Despite their faithful adaptations, though, both films do not achieve cinematically what the source material achieved in the world of literature.

Snyder captures images beautifully but he is unable to

fully articulate the nuance of the literature. His shots are gorgeous but not as dense with meaning as the literature that they are based on-- it is all style and no substance.

Taking several comic book storylines and merging them into one plot was successful in director Chris Nolan’s “Batman” trilogy. Unfortunately, this methodology did not work well for “Batman V Superman.”

The plot is bloated with too many plot threads and as a result none of them are served adequately. It has been lavished with praise by fans at early screenings and shredded to pieces by most critics. Maybe the truth is somewhere in between.

It’s not the steaming dumpster fire that critics at the New Yorker and NPR hale it to be but, in the same breath, it’s hard to call “Batman v. Superman: Dawn of Justice” a good movie. Art should make you feel something whether you love it or hate it. The film commits perhaps the biggest sin in art – it’s art you just don’t care about.

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“Everybody Wants Some!!” lets the good times roll

DAVID RAFAILOVICH

Film Critic

“Everybody Wants Some!!,” directed by Richard Linklater, is told with the perfect touch of lightness and complexity that comes together in a terrifically fun and insightful movie.

The 2016 film is told with a loose storyline that meanders in all the right directions. It is amazingly rich and has an unforgettable ensemble of characters.

“Everybody Wants Some!!” depicts the seemingly never-ending good times of a group of hard-partying college kids on a school baseball team. Set in the 1980s, the film is full of short shorts, mustaches and disco.

The film is deeply nostalgic, while still seeming universal and timeless. Although this film will particularly resonate deeply with college students, “Everybody Wants Some!!” depicts the universal human experience of what it feels like to live in the carefree fleeting moments whether it be falling in love, starting a job or parenthood. This film is about the wild ride and its end that is just barely out of sight.

The story loosely follows the likable freshman Jake Bradford,



PHOTO COURTESY OF PARAMOUNT PICTURES

“Everybody Wants Some” is fantastic film that examines the best part of life with friends.

played by Blake Jenner, who, three days before classes start, moves into the dorm house of the college baseball team. Despite a touching love interest that is saved for the end of the film, the movie does not have much of a plot. Rather, the storyline follows the wild antics of the hard-partying baseball team as they hit on girls, party and play

ball. These students live in a bubble, and despite their intense passion for baseball, many of them know they will not make it to the majors. They all understand that their time at college is fleeting, but they savor their time with willful ignorance inside the glorious

bubble. The tempo of the storyline is similar to that of a college party in that there is no beginning or end, rather just a series of conversations and interesting glimpses into the human spirit that occur throughout the night and into the morning and then repeat.

The reason why this film is so poignant, fun and relatable is because of its masterful characterization. Although many of the characters seem like archetypal college kids like the stoner, the weirdo or the alpha, we come to see each as uniquely different yet deeply relatable.

The group dynamic of these characters also plays a major component and much of the humor, tension and insight comes from their ridiculous chummy behavior, competitive nature and shifting alliances.

An even more impressive feat is that, despite the large number of characters that hang out together throughout the film, none are ignored. The storyline drifts into small but telling moments with each character which end off painting a portrait of each character that feels both incredibly real and tender.

“Everybody Wants Some!!” is a superb film that is funny, honest and allows you to experience the good times as they wistfully roll on by.

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SPORTS

Soccer Icon David Villa to host Camp at Queens College

ALBERT ROMAN

Sports Reporter

David Villa, 2010 FIFA World Cup champion, held a press conference at the Benjamin S. Rosenthal Library 230 on April 13 to announce that his DV7 Soccer Academy is heading to Queens College's Summer Camp.

Villa—Spain's all-time top goal scorer and team captain of the New York City Football Club—will partake in training sessions with children ages eight to 16, while observing their play and providing feedback. He looks forward to the partnership with QC.

"In this camp, I want to teach the children the concepts and the values that I have learned throughout my soccer career. It is an unparalleled and special opportunity to be able to begin this project in such a diverse and soccer-passionate community as Queens," Villa said.

Villa spoke on a panel with QC President Felix Matos Rodriguez, director of Villa's DV7 Academy Josep Gombau Balaguer and New York state Assembly Member Francisco Moya.

Earlier this year, Villa opened the first DV7 Soccer Academy in Bayamon, Puerto Rico.

Moya facilitated the association with Villa's academy and looks forward to the potential of the partnership.

"I am thrilled to see the DV7 Academy come to fruition jointly with Queens College. Not only am I a die-hard soccer fan that sees the potential to help young people



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARIA MATTEO
Major League Soccer player David Villa (second from the right) announced partnership with QC on April 13.

throughout Queens by learning the world's beautiful game, I could not pick two organizations I believe in more to unite on this effort," Moya said.

The Academy will run for two sessions from July 25 through July 29 and Aug. 1 through Aug. 5. It will be daily from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and will cost \$695 per week. Participants will receive two full DV7 Soccer Academy kits. This includes jerseys, shorts, socks, and an Adidas mini soccer ball signed by Villa and a certificate of completion for David Villa's DV7 Soccer Academy at Queens College Summer Camp 2016.

Professional soccer coach

Gombau Balaguer is the director of the David Villa Football Academy. He is the former director of FC Barcelona Escola and coached both professional and youth leagues. To him, the objective of the camp is to improve players' fundamentals.

"It is a great pleasure for me to be part of the David Villa's DV7 Soccer Academy at Queens College Summer Camp. Our goal is to transmit to young players the Spanish soccer philosophy using technical concepts such as running with the ball, dribbling, control passing, shooting and decision-making. We will implement these concepts while offering a fun

and exciting experience to all the children in our camp," Gombau Balaguer said.

Rodriguez expressed his excitement over the opportunity being presented to the QC community.

"We are grateful to Assembly Member Francisco P. Moya for bringing Queens College and the legendary David Villa together to create an opportunity for children to learn the game of soccer under the eyes of a first-rate team of coaches," Rodriguez said.

This is not the first time Queens College held a camp featuring a professional athlete. Back in August 2013, nine-time

NBA All Star Carmelo Anthony held a two-day basketball camp at QC.

The QC men's soccer team was also in attendance. Among them was senior Isaiah Kossinne, an international student from London, England. He saw the event as more than just an announcement, but as motivation to improve his own game.

"It's inspirational to people, especially me, it just makes me want to go grab a football and want to progress and develop my skills. You could see my teammates, there were excited about it, there are a few Spanish players on our team, so it's like a dream come true for them," Kossinne said.

After the press conference, Villa answered questions and took photos with students and others in attendance. For senior Aitor Gurrutxaga, who is also from Spain and plays for the Knights, the event presented a once in a lifetime opportunity.

"It's amazing to have David Villa in the school because you never have a chance to see the perspective of a professional player, especially a big star in the soccer world. It's also great to have a chance to ask him some questions, have him look at you. For those who follow soccer, it's great to see how humble and how much of a good person he is," Gurrutxaga said. "He's going to give more importance to Queens College."

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KNIGHT NEWS SPORTS

DAVID VILLA COMING TO QUEENS COLLEGE



Villa (center) came to QC to announce the new soccer camp at QC with President Felix Matos Rodriguez (left) and lawmaker Francisco Moya

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Photo courtesy of David Gutenmacher

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