Students Shine at Queensborough Partners for Progress Gala 2013 (P.3)

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QCC Students Celebrate Earth Day

By Hugo Ramirez

The celebration of Earth Day at the Queensborough Community College held on April 24 was received with much enthusiasm by students and faculty members. The event took place in the Student Union Lounge whose facilities were full of features that included service-learning projects and presentations from student organizations that represented academic areas such as Social Sciences, Health, Business, Physical Education & Dance, Nursing and Biology.

The goal of this day of awareness was to encourage and to foster a more responsible attitude toward recycling, reusing, and reducing nature’s gifts so that they will be maintained and preserved for future generations, stated in a written statement the Office of Academic Service-Learning, which was in charge of coordinating the event.

"As humans we all share this planet, the air, the water, the earth. It is important for our very survival that we do what we must to ensure the earth stays safe and protected," said Taikchan Lildar, a student majoring in Biotechnology.

"It is my goal to make people aware of how much of an impact they have on the Earth and show the ways we can ensure our planet remains a habitable place," added Lildar who also is the vice president of the STEM research club in QCC.

"I had a general idea about microorganisms but thanks to Earth Day Celebration, now I am more aware about the important role that they play in the beings of nature," said Kamar Tanhib, a student of Liberal Arts.

Tanhib was one of the hundreds of students who attended the exposition "Microorganisms in the Environment: The Good and the Bad" which was presented by Minkyung Kim and Fuyang Zhang, Microbiology Honors Students and led by Joan Peterson, Professor of Biology. Peterson’s students demonstrated the good and the bad of microorganisms and showcased their Picture Me in College project that invites neighboring elementary students into their lab to work alongside QCC students as they collaborate on an environmental experiment.

The nursing students had the largest number of displays as they spoke with the audience members on such topics as breaking the chain of infection, hand washing, using sun screens, reducing stress, drinking less energy drinks, and maintaining healthy water consumption.

For example, under the suggestive slogan “It’s in your hands,” the students Jacqueline Budds, Gloria Escobar, Karen Miecat and Grace Song presented the NU 101 Teaching Project 2013 highlighting why keeping hands clean by proper hand washing is vital in protecting ourselves from getting sick and spreading germs to others.

Some of the outstanding service-learning projects presented by students included the following: Stress Reduction & Sleep Deprivation Among Colleges Students, Tattoos & Using Sun Screens; Energy Drinks - Why You Should Drink Water; Hydrofracking in New York State - Pros and Cons; learn about “Tiger Trails,” new walking trails around campus to help you stay fit and, finally why it’s important to buy chocolate that is labeled “fair trade.”

QCC Student organizations that participated in the celebration of Earth Day were: the African Student Union, Asian Society, Bangladesh Student Association, Biology Club, Chemistry Club, CSTEP Club, Haitian Club, Health Club and STEM

ROTAC Returns to CUNY

By Leslie A. Diaz

The Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) is back at CUNY after previously being asked to leave college campuses for more than 40 years. The ROTC is an elective college program that helps equip students with the tools and training to serve in the US Army, York College was the first CUNY school in Queens to offer the program, which is a first year military science course that began in the fall of 2012. However, it doesn’t stop at York; other CUNY campuses will also be offering the same program, such as the City College of New York which will begin in the fall of 2013, and others will follow, such as, the College of Staten Island and Medgar Evers College. Through this four year college program, the ROTC helps assist students that want to serve in the army, be able to serve in the US Armed Forces as well.

The program offered at York College includes skills and training in leadership, problem-solving and map reading, as well as intense physical fitness training. The fitness part of the program serves to boost up the cadets’ confidence and helps them get into the best possible shape they can be in.

Naturalists of New York: Oakland Lake and the QCC Nature on Campus Blog

By Luke Tabet

"If you’re not out there, you’ll never see it."

This is the mantra repeated by QCC Professor and Community Naturalist Dr. Eugene Harris when speaking about his affinity for nature and his Nature On Campus Blog. Harris talks rapidly and excitedly about the abundance of bio-diversity that sits in the Queensborough backyard. He explains that most students enter from the "front" of the campus and therefore do not "stumble upon" Oakland Lake, located directly behind the college. Even though I’ve been down to Oakland Lake myself several times to read or clear my mind between classes with a little fresh air, I was largely unaware of the multitude of species that frequent the area.

“They’re missing so many wonderful things,” Dr. Harris says, and I don’t know whether to be sad or excited. He speaks about Oakland Lake and the rest of Alley Pond Park as if it were some sort of magical land, a place free of worries and full of wonder.

As we continue to speak, Harris rapidly flips continued on page 4

Hooded Warbler (Steve Walter, April 2013, Oakland Lake)
CUNY Adjuncts Might Lose Their Health Benefits

BY KAY MORGAN

Anticipating increased costs under the new health care law, CUNY has decided to reduce health insurance benefits for adjunct staff who are eligible—only 13% of the total 13,444 adjuncts are currently enrolled. The CUNY Professional Staff Congress (PSC), the employee union, appealed to the City of New York to take over coverage of the endangered benefits. While awaiting a resolution of the issue, the union then petitioned Trustees of the PSC Welfare Fund to use the fund to continue the coverage. Last December the Trustees agreed to pay the bill through January 27, 2013. On April 24, the agreement was extended again for 14 months. This latest extension will expire in June 2014 if the City of New York does not pick up the tab. QCC employs 688 adjuncts.

Lackluster Big Apple Job & Internship Fair.

BY KAY MORGAN

The 2013 CUNY Big Apple Job and Internship Fair was held at the Jacob Javits Center on Friday, April 26. The fair is a City University of New York sponsored annual event that has run for the past 25 years. Turnout was dismal. This year’s fair attracted a roster of 94 employers, compared to at least one turnout in the past that exceeded 5000. Ironically, an archived reflection in 1997 read, in part:

“The University’s reputation is synonymous with hope and achievement. Today, we can see first-hand the relationship between CUNY and the economy and the demand for an educated workforce.”

“...is designed to give CUNY students a head start on their careers and access to a large and diversified group of major employers.”

The lackluster Big Apple employer response in 2013 seems to reflect the current economy and a stalled demand for educated employees.

G-Forces Hit CUNY

BY KAY MORGAN

General David Howell Petraeus and General Colin L. Powell bring their influence to CUNY. General Petraeus, recently Director of the United States Central Intelligence Agency and commander of coalition forces in both recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan under the Obama administration, has been named Visiting Professor of Public Policy at Macaulay Honors College. Macaulay Honors is a program offered at each CUNY senior college. General Petraeus’ one-year term at CUNY begins officially on August 1, 2013.

General Powell has been presence on the CUNY landscape since 1997 when the Colin Powell Center for Leadership and Service was established at City College. On April 29, 2013, the Board of Trustees of City College voted to accept a name change for the campus’ Division of Social Sciences. The Division of Social Sciences will now be called the Colin L. Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership and will be home to International Relations, Latin American & Latino Studies, Public Service Management, Black Studies and Women’s Studies programs among others.
CUNY and Unicef: Fulfilling The Promise

By Maria Fabregas

CUNY has joined forces with the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and has urged all 270,000 CUNY students to take the challenge in creating innovative solutions to improve survival of children around the globe. Teams have been created and without further a due have began to brainstorm solutions that may have the chance to be experimented out on the field. The top three teams which will be chosen this fall will be traveling to a developing country in which they will be able to test out their creation.

UNICEF’s has counted on CUNY’s diverse student community to propose working solutions with the intention of helping save lives of innocent children that may never get the chance to grow up and see the world. The project will encourage people to come forward and lend a hand in something that can be prevented with great effort. It was stated by UNICEF, that around the world, 6.9 million children under the age of five have died every year from causes that could have been prevented. UNICEF also affirmed that with basic healthcare, adequate nutrition, clean water, sanitation, and education are all contributors to help more children around the world survive past the age of five. It was also mentioned that the top killers of children worldwide are pneumonia, diarrhea, malaria, and complications during pregnancy and childbirth. Therefore, this challenge is widely opened to any sort of creative solution that can be thought of from any field, whether it is health, education, engineering, sociology, public policy, and so on. The possibilities of solutions are endless and CUNY is just one of the many contributors that have joined to assist in an important project like Fulfilling The Promise.

Students Shine at Queensborough Partners for Progress Gala 2013

By Kay Morgan

Dr. Diane Call, President of Queensborough Community College and gala co-hosts Mr. Mark Kupferberg and Charlotte Biblow Esq., welcomed this year’s Partners for Progress and guests to Terrace on the Park, in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park on Thursday, April 25th. Mr. Kupferberg is the Vice President of Kepco Inc. and a Queensborough benefactor for whose family the Holocaust Center is named. Ms. Biblow is a Partner of Farrel Fritz, P.C, a prominent Nassau County law firm and the Partners Committee Treasurer, QCC Trustee Fund Board.

The gala began with cocktails at 6 p.m., followed by welcome from Ms. Natalie Roopchand, the evening’s emcee and from President Call. After presentation of the awards, closing remarks by emcee Roopchand and dinner, guests danced to the music of dance band Body Heat Productions.

Ms. Roopchand is a Queensborough and Baruch College alum who is now an Academic Advisor in the QCC Business Academic Department. She stated moving from the business end through to the college and what makes QCC special to them, personally. These on-camera "confessionals" were replayed during the awards ceremony. Partners’ messages will be used to raise funds, enhance awareness of QCC and its role in the community and to create connections for the college. This videotaped feature helped to keep the gala moving from the business end through to the festivities in admirable time.

Ticket for the Gala ranged between $150 and $300 and Queens’ communities once again validated our Annual Partners for Progress Gala as the best party in town—a record Four Hundred Thirty-three guests attended. Vice President Zins projects the total raised this year at $450,000.

When asked what the highlight of the evening was, she responded: “Seriously, [sic] the highlight was our students. Natalie, as the emcee, and Alex and Alethea introducing the honorees and sharing their own stories of Queensborough.”
Dueling College Costs: Administrative Costs vs. Academic Funding

By Rachel Poulos

Colleges are charged with providing academic instruction for the fulfillment of the mission of higher education. At the same time, they are financially strained by the operational costs incurred in providing these services. There is a perpetual conflict between satisfying the operating costs of running an institution and meeting the demands of providing adequate academic instruction. In the last few decades, analysts have noticed a shift in the budgetary focus of many institutions. This shift has been characterized by greater administrative spending, real and both relative to academic spending. Campuses across America have been experiencing an increase in this kind of “administrative bloat” since 1993 to present day, according to data compiled by the U.S. Department of Education. Such a shift in the allocation of funds can directly affect the cost of education for students as well as the funding and salaries available to instructors.

Education, and specifically higher education, is becoming increasingly more expensive for students, and yet research shows that administrative positions are being filled rather than faculty positions. The large issue at hand is that the administrative positions have been filling at an alarming rate, yet disproportionately to the rate of instructors needed for the growing number of students. This leads to funds being spent in areas that are not beneficial to students, results in the waste of government money, and contributes to the neglect of educators.

Information provided by the department of education suggests that public schools and community colleges are trying to match the increasing administrative spending found in private universities in an effort to keep up with non-academic services. With already inflated administrative costs, the spending keeps increasing without validation as to the necessity of the positions being filled and money being spent. According to the studies done by the Goldwater Institute, the percentage of administrators being hired has increased at quadruple the rate as that of instructors being hired. “It now takes 39.0 percent more full-time administrators to manage the same number of students than it did in 1993. Put another way, there are now fewer than 13 students for every full-time administrator at public institutions.”

If we examine the Queensborough Annual Reports over the last three years, the pattern at Queensborough mirrors the general trend. Comparing the figures over the last three years, we note that while the amount of the annual budget spent on Instruction and Departmental Research as a percentage of the total budget has been consistently declining from year to year, the amount of the budget spent on Maintenance and Operation as a percentage of the total budget has been consistently increasing. While the percentage variation from year to year has ranged from only 1 – 3%, cumulatively over time these figures add up.

If this trend continues, we’ll see a smaller slice of the overall budget committed to teaching and research, which are the purported ultimate goals of the institution. The demands of higher education, of course, demand resources to support them. This is a challenge for all colleges, but especially for public colleges. Zoy Balaskas, an alumnus of both Queens College City of New York and NYU School of Law, commented on the importance of adequate resources to the success of higher education, having sat on an NYU School of Law Alumni Reunion Committee. “People don’t realize that as high as a school’s tuition may appear to be, it does not go that far when you’re trying to attract top professors and talent to a school. It’s that much harder for colleges, and especially public colleges, that have not historically aggressively campaigned its alumni base for donations, and don’t charge significant tuition rates.”

These cost considerations could explain why public colleges often hire many adjunct professors, or part-time professors, rather than full-time and tenured professors since such professors are generally paid significantly less and thus impact the overall budget far less. These considerations do not, however, explain or fully justify why some adjunct professors are paid less than some assistant administrative and maintenance positions. A glimpse at the www.Indeed.com website offers a peek into comparative salaries for administrative positions versus instructor positions, and the salary ranges for the former typically exceed that of a lecturer or adjunct instructor. For example, at the senior executive level, the top executives at QCC can range from $67,000 to over $300,000. When we look outside of Queensborough, at CUNY overall, we find the discrepancies magnified. The salaries for the top CUNY executives range from approximately $80,000 to a salary as high as $724,470. While the numbers don’t tell the whole story, since we don’t know what we’re getting for what we’re paying, the crux of the issue and concern lies with the risk that an institution of higher learning may be putting more of its assets in the administrative bucket rather than the academic, which academic goal is, at the end of the day, the mission of CUNY and other public institutions of higher learning.

QCC Celebrates Diversity at the 14th Annual Multilingual Poetry Celebration

By Rachel Poulos

On April 24th, on the Humanities Quad, Queensborough Community College students enjoyed a celebration of art, culture, and live spoken poetry at the 14th Annual Multilingual Poetry Celebration. Put together by English Professor Jodie Childers, QCC students gathered outside surrounding the stage where a larger variety of talented students and poets alike celebrated the diversity of QCC students through their multilingual poems which they shared with the enthusiastic crowd. The celebration took place at 1 o’clock, by which time a large crowd had already gathered in anticipation to enjoy the festivities. Passerby students stopped to catch a glimpse of the event on their way to class, recording performances and even staying in the quad to sign up for a chance to read their poems. Many students signed up before the event, but the line quickly formed as students gathered in anticipation to recite their written word and poetic talents.

The crowd was led by QCC’s Alejandro Neruda, who kept spirits high as he introduced each individual student that went up to share their work. Students shared work in a large variety of languages such as French, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, and one faculty member, Professor Counihan, even read “Canterbury Tales” from the 1300’s written in Old English. Students like Laura Fleischer shared an original French poem titled “Je Veux Fort,” and followed with an English interpretation. Other students such continued on page 5
QCC Celebrates Diversity at the 14th Annual Multilingual Poetry Celebration

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as Yusuf Ali and Aqeel Amin shared the al-Rahman, the 55th sura of the Qur’an, singing in Arabic and translating in English. Many Professors got involved on the stage, like Professor Zara Khan who shared her poem, “Eve’s Peace,” about the importance of feminism, encouraging women to treat themselves with respect, recited entirely from memory. Alejandro Neruda, the MC for the afternoon, shared both an intense rap song accompanied by his own music, which led into a Spanish poem entitled “Latino America Unida,” which called for liberation of The Cuban Five and advocated for the unity and respect of Latin America.

Although the event takes place annually in the Spring of each year, students interested in sharing their written work and participating in the spoken word can contact Professor Jodie Childers who is also head of the Creative Writing Club. Meetings take place throughout each semester on Wednesdays where students come together to share their poetry and creative writing. The Multilingual Poetry Celebration was sponsored by a wide variety of other clubs and departments from QCC including the Asian Society, Creative Writing Club, Department of Foreign Languages, English Department, Foreign Language Society, Liberal Arts Academy, Muslim Student Association, and SOUL. Congratulations to all participating students and club members for a successful event that highlighted the immense cultural diversity and unity that QCC’s campus has to offer.

ROTC Returns to CUNY

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The program involves many more intense challenges, but these challenges help keep the determination and drive of the students very much alive and eager. “This program is designed to teach student leadership and develop them into becoming leaders and thinkers on their own. We also guide and instruct them to different tasks, and we help them in learning the Army and different entities they need to know in order to become an officer in the Army,” says Samantha Tejada, one of the Recruiting Officers in the ROTC program at York College.

The students who fully complete the program are entered into the Armed Forces as officers, which is of equal rank to a graduate from an elite military school. As for the students who complete their ROTC training, they graduate as Second Lieutenants in the US Army. “After the cadets have completed their military science classes in their senior year, they graduate and are commissioned as a Second Lieutenant and that will be their rank,” says Tejada. Inclusive with the program, the ROTC program also offers scholarships for students, since many come from low income homes. The scholarships help cover students’ full tuition and fees.

The scholarship winners must also make a commitment to serving in the army for a full four years. There are also scholarships that link to different branches of the army such as National Guard and/or the Army Reserve, depending on where the student would like to use and enhance their skills that they have learned while attending the program. “Students can choose whether to go into the active Army component, the Reserve component, or the National Guard,” says Tejada.

As far as becoming an office or a soldier, there are also other options for careers. Some students who attend the program use the skills that they have learned to apply in various other jobs that look for people with leadership and problem solving qualities in which the program trains in. Whether in business or management, the skills of leadership help give those trained a much higher chance of entering into that job field that they want. The Army does offer students, who have graduated, much broader career opportunities. As an officer of the Army, many more areas and branches will be introduced, so that a person can have the choice of what and where they want to advance their career.

Some students are under the misconception that they will be required to serve in the U.S Army in order for them to be able to register for the military science classes that are offered at their school. Even though the ROTC program is more focused towards the students who actually want to serve as officers in the U.S Army, according to Samantha Tejada, “We allow students who are in their freshman or sophomore years, take the class as an elective with no want to serve in the Army. We actually currently have students who are just taking the classes as an elective and it is available to them. We welcome them, most certainly.” The classes are available to both freshman and sophomores, with the pressure of joining in the service. Those students available to join in on the ROTC program are urged to do so and will be welcomed by all Recruiting Officers regardless of their reasoning for joining.

QCC Students Celebrate Earth Day

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Research. NYPIRG’s interactive activities were an audience attraction as their group discussed reducing the carbon footprint and talked about the pros and cons of Hydrofracking in New York State.

Earth Day is officially celebrated each year on April 22; however, Queensborough Community College chooses to celebrate the environmental awareness day during club hours on the Wednesday following the national celebration.

“The takeaway message from this year’s Earth Day celebration is that everyone is responsible for being a steward of the Earth’s resources. These resources include not only water, soil, air and trees, but also human resources. Individual actions can improve or can be harmful to the environment,” stressed the Office of Academic Service-Learning.

Earth Day activities were hosted by the President of QCC, Dr. Diane Call, the Office of Academic Affairs, the Office of Academic Service-Learning, the Office of Student Activities, the Office of Student Government, and the Office of Student Affairs.
Look for these buttons on subway riders. It means they’re willing to support fellow riders with a swipe!

Are you upset about endless fare hikes every two years?

Yeah, us too. We want to stop those hikes, and make the city find other ways to fund the subway, like for instance renegotiating the derivatives contracts that Wall St. suckered them into.

We’ve tried to talk to them. But they won’t listen. So we have to protest. We would boycott the subway, if we could. But since it’s an essential public service, we need it, to get to our jobs and live our lives. So instead of boycotting, we find ways to express our protest, like this: If you use your unlimited card to swipe someone else in, then you’re effectively helping them boycott the fare hike, sort of like boycotting it forward. You’re also helping fellow New Yorkers who can’t afford transit that’s funded like a regressive tax.

Since you’re giving the swipe away, not selling it, this is perfectly legal. (Though as you’re probably well aware, legality of actions doesn’t really deter the police from being jerks. If you are hassled by the NYPD on this either as recipient or giver of a swipe, call the National Lawyers Guild at 212 679 9718.) Even better, it’s an easy, effective way to tell the MTA to “take a hike”.

Resist, non-stop.
nofarehikes.net
Give Yourself a Break!

By Morry Tovi

You’ve slaved over good grades in High School, for SAT’s, or GED’s. You then bust your brain applying for Colleges and requesting recommendation letters. You’re finally in college! But—your stress only gets worse! What’s a student to do when their mental health reaches rock bottom?

Some of us can handle the stress in a moderate way, and continue with our education without any serious financial burdens or emotional meltdowns. For the rest of us, however, we need a break. Once viewed as the slacker’s domain, “taking a break” is actually acceptable and even appropriate given the circumstances that some students face when attending college. Taking a break doesn’t have to mean you are giving up on college all together. Sometimes there are good and respectable reasons for taking some time away from college. For example, if you’re not sure why you’re even there, or when a family crisis distracts you, it may be a wiser decision to leave. Whether it is a semester or two years- college isn’t going anywhere. There will always be an opportunity to go back and usually, your credits won’t evaporate.

Originally from the New York, I moved to Israel in Middle School and was enlisted in the IDF right after High School, at 18 years old. I had no choice in the matter, as it was mandatory. But, I completed my service and moved back to the U.S. at 20 years old, in hopes of pursing college. As I applied for college, I was required to choose a major and that’s when it hit me—what the hell do I want to even do with my life? What do I want to be in my future? I knew I wanted to be successful… but had no idea in what direction to head. I quickly stopped what I was doing and decided to book a ticket to Hawaii and visit a friend who lives there. While visiting, I received a job offer where she worked and thought to myself, hey—this could be the small break I need to reflect a bit and figure out what I want to do in life.

So I stayed…for a year. During that time, I worked, I traveled; I met interesting people from all around the world. I got to know myself more in the process as well. It was life changing. I booked my ticket back to New York in the midst of it all and gave myself a deadline. Only one year I told myself; and it’s really all I needed.

If you’ve ever considered taking a leave of absence, make sure that you have clearly defined goals for your time off. Are you going to travel, work or just need some time to relax? Set a time frame as well. You don’t want to wander off and completely lose track of why you took time off to begin with. Ask yourself what you also want to accomplish through it all. Whatever you choose for your time off, make sure that your emotional and mental needs are being supported as well. I didn’t just go anywhere, not knowing anyone. I didn’t want to go back home all the way to Israel, but I didn’t think it was wise to be alone at this time either. I knew I needed someone there for me to ease the stress a bit.

I was a bit nervous telling my parents at first about my leave, considering I technically had a two year break from school by enlisting in the army. But then again—it’s not exactly a break either, now is it? My parents completely supported my decision and understood my worries. Taking some time off doesn’t have to be seen as a failure or as a character flaw. Some people need to take life in small chunks rather than eat the whole pie at once.

If you wonder if it would be a good idea to take time out from school, you probably already know the answer. You know you aren’t being the student you could be. I’m no future teller, but I speak from personal experience. I took that year off to recollect my thoughts, work and experience the world a bit. It certainly helped me find my place in college. If you decide to go through with this decision, just remember that this is your time. Use it your advantage.
Opinion

Women in Combat

By Nicole Hazel

“The army is changing and not for the better,” I sometimes hear my fellow soldiers bitterly say when I happen to be in their presence. The commentators are usually older men, career soldiers who have been in the military for much of their lives. Then will they turn their brow-beating gaze my direction sending a hidden message which is not hard to understand. “I remember when men could treat women like dirt bags they really are and get away with it,” yeah, that’s the message they are sending my way, because in their imaginations they are stuck in the good “ole days,” and they are not budging.

In fact, I bet these are the same types who throw fits of rage and anguish on comment sections of any online news article that mentions the Jan, 24 decision by Defense Secretary Leon Panetta to lift the 1994 Pentagon policy banning women in combat roles.

Finally, it has been written in stone that we female soldiers are officially and now publically involved in the fight. Women have always been engaged on the front line since the beginning of the Iraqi war. Whether it be as a combat medic who rushes to the aid of a wounded soldier in the heat of a fire fight or the supply soldier, i.e. PFC Jessica Lynch, former POW, who conveys through unfamiliar and dangerous territory to ensure other soldiers are receiving the equipment’s that will keep them combat ready.

More than 800 females have been wounded and 150 have been killed in combat since the Iraqi war according to the Department of Defense DOD. Women have been there all along doing their part to keep the mission going forward. So why stop us from going even further if we are qualified and trained to take that next step?

When the DOD, say “combat roles,” they mean traditional all male units like the Green Berets and the Navy Seal may now have to open their doors to qualifying females. The key word is “qualifying,” a women who can meet the same physical standards as her male counterparts should be allowed to fill in critical combative positions within these units if she chooses.

Many argue that standards may now have to be lowered and this will derail the effectiveness of these units, I agree, it will also kill the morale, which is an important factor in unit cohesion. But the respect will be there if the situation is dealt with dignity to both sexes. It is fact that men have stronger upper body strength than woman, but, women have the advantage when it comes to the lower body strength which benefits them when it comes to endurance needed in long road marches that is part of the hardships these soldiers have to face during training and sometimes in combat situations. “What about leaving no man behind, you need strength to lift your fellow comrade if he is danger,” with that I say leverage; this is how we are trained to carry the wounded or fallen if the circumstance arises. We are trained to use different techniques and equipment’s to lift anything that is heavier than ourselves and face it some, men or women, just has the advantage in that arena. But, rarely was there a case when a single soldier was forced to carry another alone, it is always a team effort.

History has proven that those who find themselves at a disadvantage can invent ways to overcome them. The Boxer Rebellion can be looked at as a lesson on how the seemingly weak can gain the upper hand when the Chinese invented new ways to combat the British army, like when they paddled themselves with bamboo to help ease the blow they would receive from a foe who was physically stronger or the martial art techniques they developed that changed the game was played.

Standards should not be lowered to accommodate any weakness that may hinder the main mission, but neither should road blocks be strategically position to block the advancements of the minority who wish to be a part of the success that is being accomplished.

Another argument is that the rate of sexual abuse or harassment will increase dramatically if women are integrated into these roles. No one can deny the blatant sexism that is in the military culture and that officials in higher ranks have a tendency to turn the blind eye when such cases are brought in front of them.

A distribution of power between the sexes may be a solution that might help curtail many of these unfortunate events. It may dissuade those who think that their senior officer, because they share the same sex, will allow them or may even be sympathetic to their horrendous behavior. They may think twice about entertaining the idea that their acts of violation will be swept under the rug because it’s an all-boys club, if the person they have to receive commands from, who ultimately can make or break their military career, is a female who may see it ultimately as a violation of herself.

Importantly this decision will be sure to break the “brass ceiling,” that has held back women, who are capable and who deserve it, to climb up the ranks to positions that were sealed from them because they did not have the “right” combat experiences that made them a candidate.

But the oppositions that are being made sounds a little too much like the ones that were being made when the DOD decided to allow openly gay men and women to serve in the military, a whole lot of what ifs. The “shower scenes” were the always the fall back arguments.

The military has a set of values that each branch encourages their soldiers to memorize. The army calls theirs the “Army Values,” Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage, when I recite them I begin to take on that mindset. It seems that the only weakness maybe in the self-discipline in the individual soldier but this can be remedied by the discipline and honor of those in charge who can not only recite such values on command but who can also live it. Only time will tell if the decision to allow women to fight on the frontline was a yeah or nay. But, I am sure after a while, like all changes, eventually no one will notice the difference.

Open Borders: Just How Safe Do You Feel At QCC?

By Gabriel Marrero

In the wake of such tragic events as the Sandy Hook shooting, it becomes clear to see that the idea of a school being a safe haven is a thing of the past. While QCC does have preventative measures in the event of a hostile situation, most students aren’t aware of them. More effort needs to be taken in not just safeguarding the school, but in educating students and staff about the dangers that a hostile intruder could possibly present. In these dangerous times where we live in, one can never be too safe in taking measures to protect both themselves and those around them. Is the convenience of never having to pull out identification and being able to freely walk onto the campus worth the possible safety risk? Is the money saved from not purchasing metal detectors or not placing them in certain areas worth possibly endangering the lives of students? These questions that should be seriously considered by both students and administration as more and more violence in schools continues to be reported.
Global Citizenship Program: A Remarkable Intercultural Experience

By Hugo Ramirez

The Global Citizenship Program in Salzburg, Austria could not have been a more exceptional trip. In between the Schloss Leopoldskron, which is the name of the magnificent sixteenth century castle surrounded by a lake near the snow-capped Alps and the city of Salzburg, where the conference was held, I had a remarkable and unforgettable experience. Salzburg has a rich historical and cultural legacy and is the birthplace of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, the Universal music genius!

During the seminar I learned the importance of being a global citizen and the importance of understanding global issues. After the intense academic debates I'm convinced that my fellow peers and I have a clearer understanding about the importance of global issues. The seminar was a remarkable experience with respect to the significance of the topics discussed each day and being able to analyze the socio-economic and political views of the European Union on globalization.

I think the most important part of the seminar was to enhance and enrich our minds through experiences and intercultural debating about global challenges. Some of the issues we learned about included immigration, poverty, education and global security with the dangers of nuclear proliferation. I believe we need more insight and understanding of the commitment in being a global citizen to promote equality and build a more sustainable world.

This seminar gave us the knowledge and the tools we need to become more conscious global citizens. The students who attended this conference now have a different perspective on world events. In an era of constant change in global alliances, it is vital for Americans to understand international issues from other perspectives.

My most memorable experience of this conference was the visit to Dachau, the first Nazi concentration camp during World War II. Walking through the barracks of Dachau where thousands of prisoners were confined before being tortured to death was incredibly disturbing. I never imagined how Nazi fanaticism was able to degrade humans in such a manner.

Genocide is one of the most barbaric crimes of humanity and after taking a tour through the Dachau concentration camp, I feel as though I am more knowledgeable about what truly happened during that terrible period in history. After visiting Dachau, I felt frustration, loneliness, compassion and above all, a deep sense of empathy that an atrocity such as the Holocaust occurred. I hope this shameful chapter in history is never again repeated.

I returned highly motivated from Salzburg, in fact, I am sure that this experience will affect my future decisions. I strongly believe that I have a new outlook in my daily life. As a parent I’m happy to be able to share the experiences of Salzburg with my children and educate them on the importance of values that can make a difference within the 21st century. As a citizen, I can create awareness in my community about the importance of growth through intercultural exchange. The best way we can enrich ourselves as individuals is by learning about other cultures and show a deep interest in global affairs.

At the end of this unforgettable journey, I have the commitment to act in a practical way on current issues and taking the ethical responsibility to promote cultural diversity, tolerance, and solidarity. I believe that the most important factor of the 2013 Salzburg Global Seminar was the intercultural experience outside our borders. That being said I want to stress the importance of continuing to promote the Queensborough Community College Study Abroad Program, and this one in particular as an excellent way to create future leaders.
How Many Is Too Many?

By Dana Singh

As college students, aside from academics, the only other thing on our minds is sex. There’s nothing wrong with having sex, after all it is human nature; but how many is too many? Have you ever thought about how many sexual partners is just too many? Everyone has that one number that they don’t want to exceed, nor do they want their partners or future partners to exceed.

As I’ve researched, I noticed that there really isn’t a solid number that people would suggest is the perfect number. The amount of sexual partners is completely up to the individual. Some are disgusted at more than one, and some are okay with 10 or even 15. It all depends on each person’s situation.

Talking to students on campus gives me a good idea of how each person differs from the next. One girl told me that she has had six sex partners so far and has no regrets; another told me that she has had three. Speaking to the guys made no difference. One guy stated he has had sex with eight girls, and another said he’s only had sex with two. This proved my point that it was essentially up to the individual.

The numbers were all over the place. What exactly is the right number? That I can’t answer. When asked, students replied that they don’t have the authority to determine a specific number. They each said as long as you’re happy and as long as you and your partner is tested, then there’s not really much you can do to change your past, but there’s always hope for the future.

Why is it that so many people even have so many partners in the first place? College + Youth = Experimenting. Each youth feels the need to experiment and get to know themselves and their body a lot better. They can express that during physical acts with other people. Some think sex is a beautiful thing that should be shared with everyone, and others believe it is a sacred thing that should only be shared with your significant other. It’s all the matter of how to choose to interpret it. This can be hard because not everyone will agree on the same viewpoint. Dating becomes very hard for some when they’ve reached their potential partner’s “number”. My advice for anyone in that situation is to just tell the truth. If that person really loves you, they’ll accept you for who you are, and they should already have a good idea about your reputation, good or bad, before they even begin to take any further interest in you.

Look around our campus and try to get a better understanding for the people around you. Don’t be so quick to judge everyone based on their number. My best friend always says we should role through life with an open mind, and I think that motto actually applies here. We never know anyone’s life, so we shouldn’t pass any judgments based on what they’ve done in their lifetime. Take a good look at yourself, your significant other, and your friends, and ask yourself, “What’s your number?”

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QCC Confessions

By Morr Tsvi

Students share their most embarrassing moments with

Communique!

“I was on a 3am flight to L.A. for Spring Break and next to me sat a mother with her infant. I was really tired and fell asleep about 20 min into the flight and shortly after, the baby began crying nonstop. I eventually woke up and tried to fall back asleep but obviously couldn’t with the baby screeching right next to me. I get up, go to the bathroom and start flirting with one of the flight attendants. I tell her what happened and jokingly say ‘I wish I could just throw the baby out the window’. Bad move. I turn around, and there’s the mother, rocking her baby to sleep. With the look she had on her face, I can tell she definitely heard me. I didn’t know what to say in order to save the situation so I just turned back around, and waited for the opportunity to go into my seat when she wasn’t there. I felt like such an a**hole. We didn’t speak for the rest of the flight.” – Ronaldo

“I work in the café belonging to Bloomigdale’s on Lexington Ave. One day, Kim Kardashian walked in along with her sister, Kourtney and her son, Mason. Personally, I love them. I follow them on Instagram, Twitter, everything! I was working at the cashier and could not believe my eyes when they approached me. I tried to be on my best behavior and be “cool” about their presence. After they ordered their lunch, they asked me to read back their order so that they could make sure they told me everything. Of course, the spaz that I am, I accidentally clicked delete instead of enter when putting in their order. So EVERYTHING was gone. Normally, I would’ve memorized an order I had just put in, but I was so nervous that my mind went completely blank. I looked at them- and started crying. What a fool, right? They looked at me speechless, not knowing what suddenly happened that made me go from happy to sad. My manager saw me, motioned for me to go and takes over instead. I’ve never been so embarrassed in my life”. – Keri

“My siblings and I have of exchanging random cool/ funny photos on the daily. This one time, during Biology class, I received a text from my brother. He sent me a hilarious picture that made me laugh so hard that I forgot my location for a minute. I look up, and the whole class is looking at me, including my professor. I apologize for acting like an animal and my professor, stunned, continued with the lesson. I felt like a complete moron.” – Curtis

“I went to see my boyfriend’s band play in a bar in Williamsburg. I was so excited for him, cause this was their first official gig. I get there super early to show support and some friends joined as well. The band starts playing and about a few songs in, the power goes out. Before it did, though, I was yelling out a bunch of funny and flirty remarks to my bf. I was drunk…sometimes you become a loon when you’re intoxicated, right? So, right as the power went off, the music obviously stops along with it and I yell out ‘You’re going to get it tonight, baby!’ and everyone in the room hears me. Laughter fills the room, while I realize that I should probably sit down for the rest of the show seeing as I’ve obviously embarrassed myself enough for one night” – Lianne

“I walked into the school cafeteria, searching for something to eat. I go on line, and right in front of me is this cute chick from my Math class, talking to a friend. I wanted to take a picture of her so badly to show my friends her resemblance to Emma Watson. I was sure I could maneuver this, as she isn’t looking at me and even if she caught me- it looks as if I’m just a regular guy, sometimes you become a loon when you’re intoxicated, right? So, right as she thought I was a freak and walked away, mumbling something to her friend. I definitely lost my chances at asking for her number.” – Jake
Consider yourself a fashionista? Or do you happen to be lacking a bit in the style department? Do you follow hot seasonal trends? Or do you wear whatever’s in your closet? QCC students are very fashionable yet many of us survive on a college student budget and unfortunately, do not have the opportunity to spend on big brand name clothing. We all love to try new clothes and most of us fancy wearing new clothes every day. We see a lot of changes happening in the fashion industry every day and along with that, there are numerous companies that are coming up with new clothing and new fabrics almost every hour. It becomes difficult for us to choose the correct brand of clothing or the fabric to wear to work, school, out with friends and other occasions. Most of the time, we end up buying a product which either does not suit our skin or does not match our personality. We are often confused as to which brand to buy and what exactly “is in.”

However there are many affordable stores that have the same designs, lower prices and even a wider variety of clothes then big brand name clothing for both men and women. During the past six years, the see-through clothing trend managed to evolve form a seasonal into a year-round trend, meeting a significant rise during the spring and summer of 2012. Still perceived as an “off-limit” trend, the see-through garments can be seen as either seductive and sexual or classy and elegant, but can be worn for any occasion and is still a top trend in 2013. Many of these trendy, fashionable see-through tops may be found at any close by H&M, Forever 21, Charlotte Russe, Strawberry and other local stores. With this, a pair of shorts, a skirt and or jeans may be worn as a compliment to your see-through shirt, in addition to a tank top or a bandeau top underneath for a daintier look.

In addition, black and white patterns are blasting in this season. The black and white prints are being introduced as one of spring and summer’s most popular trends. Black and white shirts are being paired with denim jeans, as well as black and white stripes and polka dots. The colors black and white are considered timeless, and are always in style. These colors are not only used for shirts, but can also be found in dresses, shoes, and even hair colors. Black and white is a classic color scheme that never goes out of style and will always be in fashion.

When it comes to summer fashion, there are a few colors that are always popular. One of the most popular colors for summer is neon. Neon is a bright, bold color that is perfect for the sunny months. Neon is a fun and playful color that is perfect for the beach and pool. Another popular color for summer is pastel. Pastel colors are soft and feminine, and are perfect for a summer dress. Pastel colors are also perfect for a summer party or wedding.

In conclusion, the fashion industry is always changing and evolving. It is important to stay up to date with the latest trends and styles. By being fashion conscious, we can create a unique and personal style. Whether it’s a bold black and white outfit or a pastel summer dress, we can always find a way to express our individuality through our clothing choices. So, the next time you go shopping, remember to have fun and enjoy the process. After all, fashion is all about having fun and expressing ourselves through our clothing choices.
through pictures that have been posting on the blog, remarking on certain ones that catch his eye. Among them are several very beautiful shots of the swans that live in the park, several owls, a harbor seal spotted in Little Neck Bay, and some impressive cell-phone photos of various mushrooms, which Harris describes as “each its own mini-micro-world.”

Oakland Lake is part of Alley Pond Park, the second largest public park in Queens. The lake itself is estimated to be around 15,000 years old, a “glacial pond fed by underground springs” according to the NYC Parks website. The lake, as Dr. Harris explains, lies in a migratory route for a vast variety of birds, making it a key destination for local birdwatchers and naturalists. Because of the migration seasons, the Spring and Fall seasons are the optimal times for students and enthusiasts to go out and view the travelling bird flocks.

Encircled by a paved walking path and surrounded by trees and woodlands, the pond offers a place for New Yorkers and students to “get away from it all, meditate with nature,” says Harris.

A walk around the Oakland Lake on a sunny afternoon brings one into contact with several groups of camera-toting birders, naturalists, and other community members out looking to breathe in the fresh air and experience the nature that the park provides. This comes as a welcome break from the everyday environment that we encounter living in a sprawling urban center like New York City.

Harris started the QCC Nature on Campus Blog in an attempt to make students more aware of the level of natural diversity that surrounds them while on campus, and in their everyday lives. Feeling that many schools don’t emphasize nature, coupled with the fact that most students come from urban areas, Dr. Harris worries that students largely overlook the beauty and significance of the natural world.

The QCC Nature on Campus Blog is a resource through which students can see and understand the nature that surrounds them. Harris says that “the diversity of colors, sounds, of nature is thrilling, stimulating. It can be used to write songs, take pictures of, write essays, poems, create art, inspire.”

The Blog mainly features birds and other wildlife captured in their element, due to the abundance of species that are drawn to Oakland Lake. These include a variety of songbirds and water birds, such as the Great Blue Heron. However, the group also displays interest in the surrounding woodlands as well, providing photos of specimens such as naturally preserved raccoon skulls and several different classes of mushrooms. Since 2010, it has received over 1,000 views and features “around 500 photo postings,” according to Dr. Harris. He explains that
Dr. Harris has a PHD in Biological Anthropology, I asked him how his obvious passion for nature integrates itself into his educational process. He explained that all his students know that he loves nature. “My whole world is organisms,” he explains. “But we can also experience animals at another level, as a whole.” Harris says he’s always loved nature, since he was a boy growing up in Westchester County.

Harris is not alone in his venture to capture the magic of the pond. His collaborators include a group of six community members and naturalists. Additionally, photos have been contributed by many QCC students as well as Faculty and Administration members. Students or contributors to the blog don’t need “fancy cameras” in order to capture nature. In fact, some of the more impressive photos featured on the blog are taken with ordinary cell phone cameras, though one might not be able to tell just by looking.

The Blog offers not only a forum for students and nature lovers to interact with each other through photos and comments, but is a window into the vast natural ecosystem that exists within our “concrete jungle,” something that Harris claims goes largely ignored by New Yorkers, equally due to ignorance and disinterest. He proves this point by telling me that a few weeks ago he was in Manhattan near canal street and saw a hawk fly over the heads of New Yorkers and tourists and land on a lamp post. “And no one noticed! Everyone was just walking by and no one looked up and saw it but me!”

Black-and-White Warbler (Chris Petrow, April 2013, Oakland Lake)

Black-Capped Chickadee (Phil Duckett April 2013, Oakland Lake)
2013 Spring-Summer Fashion Trends

continued from page 11

summer 2013’s most notable fashion trends. From harlequin or multicolored prints and graphic checks to bold retro stripes: there’s no question that black and white patterns are one of springs and summers biggest obsessions. Go basic, nineties or modern, just as long as you keep it black, white, and elegant all over.

For men, the style is a bit different with bold stripes and camouflage being one of the top trendy looks for spring and summer 2013. Stripes are always around, and they are a pattern that’s very straightforward and make for a simple choice design-wise. In fashion sense, stripes do a lot: they can help you look taller and can break the uniformity of any look without being over the top. This season the stripe print is given new life in big and bold styles, and there are several ways you can wear it to transcend from classic to on-trend. This featured bright and multi-colored striped trend which can be worn with a simple plain cargo shorts or jeans may prevent the print from becoming too overwhelming and keeps the look cool and casual.

According to Camouflage Circa 2013, Camo print for men is channeling the army for spring and summer. Looking at men’s fashion trends in spring 2013, camouflage prints remains constant amongst the list and is also a trendy style for females. An easy way to start with camo is to wear a cheap camouflage T-shirt under a denim jacket and pair it with colored pants (tan or blue.) Camouflage shorts and jackets also look great as long as they are paired with something simple.

Now that you are familiar with what trendy outfits are hot for this Spring/Summer, it’s time to give them a spin with the perfect handbags and shoes. So say goodbye to boots and enjoy the warm season with heels, wedges, and flats to show off your legs. What heels best complement a bright colored top or dress? It’s nice to accessorize a bright colored or black and white top or dress with a nude or studded black sandal, heels (pumps or wedge) or flats. Bags with bright neon colors of beige, green, purple, pink and blue, are in fashion. Colors are a hot trend of the season and not only bright colors are significant, but bags made in black and or white are also top looks of this season. For men, the look for footwear hardly ever change, however Valentino camouflage sneakers with studs on the back are the hottest item this spring for men. In addition, Oxford, Loafers and Aldo Paxton (black, brown, nude or bright colors- depending on your preference) are also top trendy footwear for men and can be worn for any occasion.

As the weather becomes warmer its best to avoid over dressing: ladies, AVOID wearing too much jewelry. Over accessorizing may take away the attention from your outfit, so stick to one major statement piece that will blend in with your outfit; and also tone down on the make-up. Also, avoid travelling with those extra-large pocket books; travel with something light, bright and small. Men should put away the idea of wearing one solid color. Mix it up a little! Head to toe Denim or dark colored tees and jeans is a fashion “no no.” Avoid wearing dark blue tees with jeans; mixing bright colored shirts (striped/bright blue or something that suits your complexion and style) with mint green or tan pants is something that would blend all together and complement each other, giving you a simple, stylish spring look. Therefore when it comes to fashion, it is okay to research what trends are in and suits you best.
Suicide Prevention Services All in One App: “Just in Case”

By Leslie A. Diaz

Starting college can be a very exciting experience for some students, but for others, it is a big change that can sometimes be difficult to adapt to. For some, the feeling of possibly not fitting in with other students and the thought of change can be frightening. These feelings of loneliness, confusion, and extreme change can lead a person towards depression and if it is left untreated, it can be very dangerous to one’s health. It is said that if a student seems to be often very quiet, to themselves, doesn’t speak to anyone or has no friends, looks or seems depressed, these can be vital suicide warning signs. It has been shown that 2.3 million adults have actually planned a suicide and that 1.1 million suicides occur on school campuses.

Students who suffer from depression are offered advice in getting treatment from their families, school faculty, or friends, but many refuse to seek any treatment. One of the causes of suicide is untreated depression and it is the second leading cause of death of college students. Acknowledging the fact that this is indeed a problem and that half of college students go through depression that is untreated, eReadia LLC and NASPA have agreed to partner together in creating new mobile apps to help back up the fight against suicide and mental health crisis that can possibly be at risk towards attempting suicide.

“Just in Case” offers information, support, and intervention services and resources that can help students throughout their day and to help lift them up in a positive way. Inclusive with these great benefits, there are services for each individual situation that a student might be going through. Special sections that are featured in this app help students reach out in urgency and get efficient help as soon as possible. Along with the students’ customization of their own preference, colleges have also been working with eReadia to allow them to customize their very own choices of intervention and resource tools that they may think would be beneficial and a big help for their students. Not only does it provide faculty and counselors of schools another approach to reach out to students, but it gives students a tool that is handy and that they can always go back to as many times as they need to during the day.

Friends of a student, who is in trouble or is showing signs of depression and fails to reach out, can also benefit from this app. There is a feature that is called “I’m worried about a friend,” which allows you to find ways to talk to your friend, and get them the help they may desperately need. “Just in Case” provides a safe and helpful option for students who are in dire need of being reminded that it does, indeed, get better. What better way to reach out to potentially troubled students than through their smart phones?

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SPRING SEMESTER STARTS APRIL 30TH

Do you like to write?

Do you want to share your writing with others?

Then write for the Communiqué.

The QCC Communiqué is looking for a few good writers for its Fall 2013 issues. We are especially interested in micro-reviews (200-300 words) of new movies; editorials related to QCC, higher education, NYC, and the world; feature articles about college life; and book, theatre, and music reviews for our arts section.

Writing for the Communiqué is a great opportunity to share your ideas with other QCC students and contribute to the campus community. It’s also an excellent way to beef up your resume and your college applications.

Interested students should contact Communiqué Faculty Adviser James Hoff at jhoff@qcc.cuny.edu

The COMMUNIQUÉ: It’s Your Paper!
Pain and Gain Muscles Their way to the Top

Mark Wahlberg, Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson, enough muscles to make girls lose concentration, enough action to keep the boys interested, and enough comedy to keep everyone happy; Pain and Gain, directed by Michael Bay, delivers on all cylinders. The movie seems somewhat unbelievable with a plot that is too insane and bizarre to be made up. The film is filled with violent black comedies and makes you love and hate these characters all at the same time. Michael Bay is known for his “exaggeration” in explosions and special effects. And although a plot that is too insane and bizarre to be made up. Wahlberg is, as seen before, hilarious. Mackie is kind of the low key actor here compared to the success of the other two, but his character is well acted and funny. Johnson is more known for his action performances. Wahlberg plays a personal trainer, sick of being stuck where he is in life. He “believes in fitness” and just like everyone else wants the American dream. He decides the best way to get it is by kidnapping and extorting one of his rich clients. He rounds up Johnson and Mackie as his team, and together the group goes on an outrageously entertaining journey.

Pain and Gain might border along the lines of reality at times, but it’s as entertaining as any movie you’ll see. The film should be, in my opinion, one of the big hits to start off the summer. If you have some time to kill, look no further than this film as the laughs and cringes are guaranteed.

QCC’s Music Society

Are you an aspiring musician aiming to hone your skills? Are you looking for the perfect place to perform with other, like minded students? Then QCC’s Music Society may just be the club you’re looking for. Composed of various students from all sorts of different backgrounds and specializing in various types of instruments, QCC’s Music Society is the perfect place for students of Queensborough to come and jam out.

The Music Society accepts all members regardless of whether they are experienced musicians or simply novices willing to learn from their peers. Members and visitors to the club are offered a fun environment, where students can meet with their peers, learn about various types of different forms and styles, and most importantly, make friends. The Music Society also holds various workshops during club hours, where students can receive instruction in instrument, voice, and even song composition. The Society even holds a Rockband and Karaoke competition for students every semester to raise money for Walk to Aspire.

The Music Society holds various concerts and events throughout the semester where its members can show what they have learned throughout their time at Queensborough. These concerts are open to the public and are a great place to kill some time while listening to great music in the progress. Members will often cover both classic and popular songs, such as those by groups like Radiohead, Nirvana, and James Brown. Other times, audiences will be treated to original pieces composed by the students of the society themselves. It’s a great opportunity to attend these concerts and listen to and watch all the hard work that goes into pulling them off. One can come early and watch as the crews and students all work together to set up the audio, tune the sounds of their instruments, and set up the stage for the performances. The amount of hard work that goes into pulling these concerts together is clearly reflected in the quality of the work.

Whether you’re a veteran or a novice musician, joining QCC’s music society may be something worth looking into. Even for one with no music experience, the free concerts and events are a great alternative to sitting in the library or student union during a break. Be sure to be on the lookout for these events, and don’t miss them! For more information about the Music Society, you can visit the Society’s club room in Humanities 27.
College Discovery Club

Aids Walk

Sunday, May 19th, 2013

8:30 am Sign in, Entrance to General Sign-In is located at 59th Street and 5th Avenue
QCC ID Required

Co-Sponsored by The Haitian Club, The CSTEP Club
and the Money Legal Eagle Society Club
Back in Space Killing Necromorphs

In early February the third and last installment of the well-known franchise, Dead Space was released. The third chapter of the game was announced at the game convention called “E3” on June 4th, 2012. “Dead Space 3” has been in development for two years and just like the previous titles, Visceral Games continued the game and Electronic Arts was the publisher. With more information of the game revealed “Dead Space 3” is a continuation of where “Dead Space 2” left off.

Dead Space 3 entered stores on February 5, 2013 for the PlayStation 3, Xbox 360 and computers. Visceral Games brought the third installment of the well-known franchise, Dead Space was released. The third installment of Dead Space was released in 2013 has been a lengthy story line – the game is two disks long! One is given to accept side missions and can complete them at any point. Half the time in the game I was lost trying to figure out what was a “side mission” and what was my “main mission”. Navigating towards the mission I wanted to complete was another hassle. When picking the mission you wish to do, clicking the right analog stick on your controller will activate a laser which shows where you are supposed to go. In previous Dead Space games I had no problem with my “laser guide” but in Dead Space 3 it was my biggest enemy. When clicking my analog stick, the laser would appear less than half the time. This can be extremely frustrating especially when one is literally lost, floating around in outer space.

Besides being lost in space half the time, Dead Space 3 still has its scare factor. Although I’m a pansy when it comes to any type of horror game, Dead Space 3 is a lot more frightening compared to the other two games in the earlier installments. Maneuvering through mostly spaceship crafts in space and broken down buildings just like Dead Space 1 and 2, Visceral Games brings a new twist by adding new areas one can explore. Taking place mostly on an ice-covered planet called Tau Volantis, one is now faced with a winter environment – snowy landscape, strong winds and cold temperature. On the topic of environment, sticking to the classic ways of Dead Space, the environment one is in will affect the player. When passing through outer space, a meter is shown on the player's right shoulder. This meter displays how much oxygen the player has left until they suffocate. When floating through space, one can actually find oxygen tanks and use them to refill their own oxygen tank. When walking through the snowy lands of Tan Volantis, another meter will be shown and this new meter displays how much time one has left to enter a closed area before they freeze to death. Tan Volantis' strong wind actually slows down the players walking speed.

Dead Space 3 brings the same “fighting” system as the previous titles. Being a shooter game, one will be attacking their enemies with guns. There are four slots in which different guns can be equipped throughout the game. One can buy new guns at the “Weapon Bench” and each gun has different abilities such as wide range shots, quick shots and electric bolts. A new feature which was added to the “Weapon Bench” is the weapon up-grading system. The new upgrade system is completely different compared to the previous titles. When upgrading your gun, attachments can be added or removed on all parts of your gun. It isn't the easiest system to get the hang of. Attachments to your gun can have a positive/negative affect. For example adding an extension to your gun for an increase in damage might cause the reload process to slow down. I personally disliked the new upgrade system because it can be a bit time consuming trying to get the best gun possible.

Another new feature is the option to make a gun. Throughout the game, one picks up various scrap items which can be used to create a gun at the “Weapons Bench”. When creating a gun there is a ‘blueprint’ on what items is needed to build the gun you desire. While on the topic of upgrading weapons, one can also upgrade the character's spacesuit by increasing its amour, oxygen and health levels. There are about five different spacesuits one can change into and each suit has a different attribute. For example, one of the suits will benefit you while walking on Tan Volantis – the strong wind won't slow you down and the “freeze meter” will vanish. Just like in the previous games, telekinetic “powers” can be used to “freeze” enemies for a short period of time and can be used to lift up objects. Besides crazy guns and futuristic spacesuits, one can also punch (more like wildly swinging your arm) and stomp on an enemy.

Majority of the games which have been released in 2013 have had short stories. Surprisingly Dead Space 3 actually has a lengthy story line – the game is two disks long! One is given to accept side missions and can complete them at any point. Half the time in the game I was lost trying to figure out what was a “side mission” and what was my “main mission”. Navigating towards the mission I wanted to complete was another hassle. When picking the mission you wish to do, clicking the right analog stick on your controller will activate a laser which shows where you are supposed to go. In previous Dead Space games I had no problem with my “laser guide” but in Dead Space 3 it was my biggest enemy. When clicking my analog stick, the laser would appear less than half the time. This can be extremely frustrating especially when one is literally lost, floating around in outer space.

Still taking place in outer space in the 26th century, Dead Space 3’s environment isn't a far off stretch from the earlier installments. Maneuvering through mostly spaceship crafts in space and broken down buildings just like Dead Space 1 and 2, Visceral Games brings a new twist by adding new areas one can explore. Taking place mostly on an ice-covered planet called Tau Volantis, one is now faced with a winter environment – snowy landscape, strong winds and cold temperature. On the topic of environment, sticking to the classic ways of Dead Space, the environment one is in will affect the player. When passing through outer space, a meter is shown on the player's right shoulder. This meter displays how much oxygen the player has left until they suffocate. When floating through space, one can actually find oxygen tanks and use them to refill their own oxygen tank. When walking through the snowy lands of Tan Volantis, another meter will be shown and this new meter displays how much time one has left to enter a closed area before they freeze to death. Tan Volantis' strong wind actually slows down the players walking speed.

Dead Space 3 brings the same “fighting” system as the previous titles. Being a shooter game, one will be attacking their enemies with guns. There are four slots in which different guns can be equipped throughout the game. One can buy new guns at the “Weapon Bench” and each gun has different abilities such as wide range shots, quick shots and electric bolts. A new feature which was added to the “Weapon Bench” is the weapon up-grading system. The new upgrade system is completely different compared to the previous titles. When upgrading your gun, attachments can be added or removed on all parts of your gun. It isn't the easiest system to get the hang of. Attachments to your gun can have a positive/negative affect. For example adding an extension to your gun for an increase in damage might cause the reload process to slow down. I personally disliked the new upgrade system because it can be a bit time consuming trying to get the best gun possible.

Another new feature is the option to make a gun. Throughout the game, one picks up various scrap items which can be used to create a gun at the “Weapons Bench”. When creating a gun there is a ‘blueprint’ on what items is needed to build the gun you desire. While on the topic of upgrading weapons, one can also upgrade the character's spacesuit by increasing its amour, oxygen and health levels. There are about five different spacesuits one can change into and each suit has a different attribute. For example, one of the suits will benefit you while walking on Tan Volantis – the strong wind won't slow you down and the “freeze meter” will vanish. Just like in the previous games, telekinetic “powers” can be used to “freeze” enemies for a short period of time and can be used to lift up objects. Besides crazy guns and futuristic spacesuits, one can also punch (more like wildly swinging your arm) and stomp on an enemy.

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the series. I remember Dead Space 1 being scary and Dead Space 2 was barely terrifying but man! There were time where I was playing Dead Space 3 and I just had to take a break from it because it was too much for me. Deformed human corpses infected with an alien virus called Necromorphs are constantly popping out of nowhere, screaming and trying to attack you. I remember walking on the snowy areas of Tan Volantis and all of a sudden three giant Necromorphs popped up from under the snow. I had to pause the game just to take a breather. The noises they make are eerie and just the way they look is so creepy.

From my experiences with Dead Space games I tend to play the whole campaign once but I ended up playing Dead Space 3 three times. This game has the option of four different difficulties: casual, normal, hard and impossible. After one beats the game, they can replay the game on "new game+" mode. "New game+" is basically replaying the whole game over again but you’ll have all the weapons you had from your first walkthrough of the game. If one completes the game on "new game+", three new difficulties are opened: classic, pure survival and hardcore. I really wanted to see how high the difficulty level can get. A game having seven levels of difficulty just sounds insane!

The graphics seemed the same as previous games but with the ability to actually maneuver through space with the use of the character’s suit was just an amazing touch. When floating through space and taking a 360 degree turn, the area seems limitless and makes one feel like they are truly in outer space. Besides the “laser guide” malfunctioning nothing was wrong with Dead Space 3. The developers did such a great job creating a disturbing atmosphere in this game with the layout of dark places in the Dead Space 3 world. With the addition of co-op campaign, new enemies, weapons and planet to explore, Dead Space 3 is definitely a great game one can play alone or play with friends for a good scare.
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Sports

All-Star Game Comes to Queens

With the MLB All-Star game coming to Citi Field (Mets home stadium) excitement is in the air for the baseball fans and New Yorkers alike. Citi Field will be hosting the All-Star game for the first time since its existence starting from 2009. The All-Star game is a highly coveted honor to be held in any state but it feels even more special in New York. New York is known as one of the largest sports cities in the world due to the capacity of fans it brings in to its major sports on a daily basis. For Mets third baseman David Wright who is no stranger to the All-Star game, being elected 6 times throughout his previous 9 years in the MLB, he feels it’s an absolute privilege to help host this spectacular game in his home stadium. “Gladly trade all six of those in to participate in this year’s,” said David Wright explaining how he really feels about this year’s All-Star game but New York is going all out during All-Star week with all the events being held. With the New York Yankees hosting the last All-Star game in New York in 2008 and the Mets last hosted this amazing event in 1964 in Mets old home stadium, Shea Stadium. The Mets will have to do as much as possible because to say it’s been awhile since they last hosted the All-Star game is an understatement. David Wright and former Met players John Franco, Edgardo Alfonzo and Mookie Wilson were addressing the press in New York about the events being held during All-Star week with all the events being held.

The fans can take pictures, get autographs, and see all their favorite players; the best part? It’s free to go see them on the red carpet. Besides all these events, the All-Star Futures game on July 14 which is MLB young prospects representing their minor league teams and this event is perfect to see not only for a thrilling baseball game, but also to see what players and stars MLB has in store for everyone in the future. The last two events are the Legends and Celebrity softball game being held on July 14 as well, a softball game featuring MLB Legends and Hall of Famers matched up against celebrities, a perfect opportunity to meet some of your favorite celebrities and former MLB greats.

Finally, the most popular event during the All-Star week, the Home Run Derby which has the best sluggers and homerun hitters in the game facing against each other. Bring metal umbrellas because there will be a heavy storm of baseballs on July 15.

All of these events sound entertaining and fun, and baseball fans can’t wait to go and are counting the days away. New York is known as the mecca and the big apple city, and MLB couldn’t have chosen a better city. So if you hear screams excitement from July 12 through July 18. So New York, play ball.
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