Jennifer Thompson, one of the co-authors of this semester’s much loved Common Read book, Picking Cotton: Our Memoir of Justice and Redemption, graced the PAC stage on April 20th. Jennifer visited our campus and not only demonstrated how strong of a woman she is, but also how passionate she is about her cause.

Thompson started her speech by narrating her story when she was raped back in 1984. She relayed what happened to her as if she was reliving the experience. She also went over every detail as if she was reading the book Picking Cotton directly to us (the audience) again. The way she spoke to the audience was surprising. Once she was stage and started talking, she caught everybody’s attention. The passion she spoke with somehow made the audience connect to her and feel the pain she went through, and at the end of the speech there was this huge feeling of relief from her. She looked calm, relaxed and thankful as if she was experiencing the feeling of “everything being over” again.

Jennifer Thompson demonstrated the lovely, kind, humble and caring person she is by trying to sign all the books possible and take as many pictures as possible with the students and staff of Queensborough Community College.

The book signing was well received by all attendees. The line extended to almost the back of the theatre. For many, including myself and my coauthors, this was an absolute dream, to be given this amazing opportunity to interact with Thompson. She was gracious enough to sign for everyone.

An Interview with Jennifer Thompson

By Tyriece Simon and Lissett Young

After Jennifer Thompson’s presentation about her book, Picking Cotton: Our Memoir of Justice and Redemption, she sat down with us to answer some questions about her experiences, and to establish how “it resonates for different people for different reasons. Obviously to a man is how “it resonates for different people for different reasons. It resonates differently for people color and people who are white; people who are students and people who are, you know, old like me.” The following is transcribed from our interview.

Can you tell us a little bit about public speaking and what its like in front of large crowds, such as the one here at Queensborough?

The first time I have ever spoke in public, other than an interview or a magazine, which is one on one, is very different from when you’re standing in front of hundreds of people. The first time that happened, which is in the book, was when I went to Texas for the Gary Graham’s press conference, the gentleman who was on death row who was ultimately executed. I never thought about public speaking and I certainly never [thought] I would do it. But when they called me [asking] if I could come down to Texas… but I wasn’t sure if I wanted to do it because at that time I was for the death penalty, which I’m not now, by the way, which is very important. I’m an abolitionist for the death penalty. When I went down there and I did the press conference. I remember not understanding what was [going] to happen, no one told me there was going to be 200 reporters in the room and they were going to be from all over the world. I hadn’t prepared anything and I didn’t know what I was doing. When I came off the stage and it had been reported and it was now in France, London, Germany, and Canada. I remember coming back off the stage and people who asked me to come looked at me and said, “Do you have any idea what you just did?” I was dumbfounded and said, “No, I don’t. I have no idea what I just said. What did I do?” They had recorded it, which was short about 8 or 10 minutes long, and I thought, “Did I really say that?” From there I was very quickly found out. I’ve done a really good job keeping myself fairly hidden, people couldn’t find me easily. Now was looking for me and I was “the girl” and I was quickly asked to go to all the different states and speak to legislators.

Catch Up or Get Ahead with Summer Sessions at QCC

By Tyriece Simon

As wonderful as CUNY Queensborough is, most students would probably agree that they couldn’t graduate fast enough. As college students, everyone is aware of the fact that time management is important and not a moment should be wasted. Some students choose the option of starting school “late” or taking a break for a semester or two but don’t want to fall behind. Other students might just want to accelerate the learning process and be closer to their graduation day a lot faster. As far as timing goes, there is no single way to approach obtaining your degree. What may be considered “ideal” is different for everyone. The 2016 Summer Session at CUNY Queensborough is a wonderful opportunity to supplement any lost time, or utilize these short semesters to work towards earning your degree, faster.

If you’re wondering why you should even bother registering for the 2016 Summer Session, the answer is on the QCC website. “Make up, catch up, and get ahead on your college degree this summer,” it’s just that simple! If you’re behind on your credits,
Catch Up or Get Ahead with Summer Sessions at QCC

need to retake a course, or would simply like to overachieve and earn credits more quickly than you would in the traditional fall and spring semesters, this is the program for you! It literally benefits everyone regardless of their needs, and surely all students understand the importance of staying on track and not prolonging the graduation process.

Eligibility for the 2016 Summer Session extends to a wide variety of people, and is not limited to only CUNY QCC students. Current CUNY students at other colleges, non-degree students and visiting students who are current undergraduates at a non-CUNY school are all eligible for the program. Registration began on April 6th and classes officially begin on June 6th.

To apply for the 2016 Summer Session, all CUNY students (including students that do not attend QCC) can apply through the CUNYfirst website without the need for academic advisement. Visiting and non-degree students can apply directly on the CUNY Queensborough website. Easy enough, right? And there's more good news! Queensborough students interested in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) courses can (and should) apply for the Summer STEM course tuition waiver in order to take their STEM courses free of charge. If your STEM waiver application is approved, you can add two additional courses in any other subject that will also be completely free of charge. That’s a truly amazing opportunity for those seeking to complete their STEM courses with financial ease.

Finally, there are plenty of courses available to be taken during the 2016 Summer Session. There are actually over 100 courses available! Whatever your “Student Degree Audit” stands in need of, chances are that the Summer Session offers a course to satisfy that very need. Visit the QCC website to see a full array of all the courses available this summer.

To be clear, the 2016 Summer Session is not mandatory but it is definitely a smart decision to make on your behalf, overall. Summertime is famous for all the (otherwise scarce) free time that’s suddenly available, weekend vacations and even the temporary loss of “rigid structure” in some people. There are 168 hours in a week. For example, if you only take one two-hour course 4 days a week, then school really only takes up 8 hours out of your week. As a student, if you can be disciplined enough to work diligently for those 8 hours a week, you still have 160 hours every week to yourself. Your perfect summer will not suffer at the hands of the QCC Summer Session. In fact, your transcript and overall productivity this summer will flourish because of it! Thanks, QCC!
An Interview with Jennifer Thompson  
continued from page 2

shoes, then this never would happened to her.’ But what would happen if, instead of victim shaming or saying those things, we sat with her and said, ‘can you tell me about that?’ Sit with her and listen to her story. I promise you, if you can be proximate to the person or the issues, you will come away with a very different understanding. We don’t just victim shame with sexual violence, we victim shame with homelessness. How many times do you walk by a homeless person and think, ‘well if he would just get off his sorry ass and get a job he wouldn’t be homeless.’ How many of us want to sit beside him and go, tell me your story? Nobody. We’re going to into the prisons or to blame them, and actually became proximate and actually is that easy. It becomes a matter of choice. So if the lens you’re looking through is bitter or angry or racist or whatever it is that is causing you to see the world in a way that is not adding value to your life, it’s actually taking value away, at any moment in that part of your journey you can actually change your lens. You can change it and look through a lens that’s beautiful and redemptive and merciful, [filled with] grace. We can do that. It’s just a matter of a choice that we have to make ourselves, and I see a lot of this. I get people coming up to me often and say, ‘I mean I really appreciate your story but I hate my ex wife and I want her to die, because she destroyed my life’ and she took my children away and my career went into a puddle of crap. Do the hard that’s going to get you somewhere. ‘well what you’re doing now, is it easy?’ They would say, ‘Well, no.’ So there’s hard and hard, and if this hard and this is hard do the hard that’s going to get you somewhere. Don’t do the hard that’s going to keep you trapped in this puddle of crap. Do the hard that’s going to get you to the next step you need to be in life. If hard is equal, all things being equal, choose hard that gets you to the next step. That’s what I would leave your readers with.

From us and Queensborough, we are so thankful you were able to come here to speak and share your story with us. The discussions we had, bringing things to light, has really sent messages around the school. It has made people want to talk, want to discuss things that they may have been uncomfortable talking about before. I know this started out as a story but it has transitioned into everybody wanting to come together and wanting to make a difference and wanting to follow in your footsteps to do more and better things to protect other lives that have felt trauma in this way. So from the bottom of our hearts and QCC’s, we thank you so much. You have united us not just as victims but as people who want to advocate the way you do for them as well. [This is] one of those lifetime experiences no one will ever forget, I know we won’t.”
Drones For Good

By Noman Iqbal

In addition to crop farming, drones can be used as herders, as a way to keep eye on livestock in case of injury, distress, and more.

Drones can assist in safer infrastructure management and maintenance. Picture being on top of a 77-story skyscraper or climbing 220 feet on to a wind turbine with colossal blades, it’s a high-risk job. With a drone, cranes and scaffolding are not an absolute necessity. Assessing the conditions underneath a bridge along with oil rigs can be more easily and safely accessed via a drone.

According to The Fiscal Times, “The United States regulates 100 percent of all power lines each year, but only 20 percent get inspected because there is not enough bandwidth and ability to do it right now,” Colin Gounden, the company’s president, told Fast Company. “We wanted to see if drones could do video surveillance for that, which is very possible.”

Drones can take journalistic reporting to another level. The aerial point of view would allow access to anywhere. Journalists are often faced with issues of access but a drone would help with hard to reach places. They can be deployed over warzones to locate people in danger or during natural disasters. This would allow journalists to ensure these dangerous areas while still providing a clear idea of what is happening.

It must be noted that flying a drone may look as if it’s like video game joystick but that is rarely the case for flyers. Detroit Free Press photojournalist Eric Seals told Poynter that it takes “a good month, even two months” to get skilled at operating a drone. “You have to develop a mental checklist to check out the gear, make sure you are below 400 feet and not too close to an airport. You have to know about wind conditions. It is not a toy and people who got them at Christmas have to realize that. A lot of people who got them and started flying them without any practice find the aircraft flies away. If you do not calibrate the aircraft you can lose them in flight and never see them again.”

In addition there are ethical concerns involving drone recording which include “newsworthiness, safety, sanctity of law and public spaces and privacy” according to the International Journalists’ Network. A proper code of ethics should be inaugurated before commencing forward with this idea.

Drones can deliver pizza. Imagine opening your front door and seeing a buzzing machine holding your box of cheesy-saucy goodness as it slowly descends. Upon arrival, as it hovers right next you it releases its grip and voila, the transaction is complete. Your taste buds will do rest of the talking as it flies away.

The Rohingya Question- A test of U.N Backbone

By Alexis Josue Moungara

“The sons of Adam are limbs of each other, having been created of one essence. When the calamity of time affects one limb the other limbs cannot remain at rest. If thou hast no sympathy for the troubles of others, thou art unworthy to be called by the name of a human.” These are the words inscribed on the United Nations building written by a Persian poet eight centuries ago, highlighting the responsibilities that everyone on the planet has towards upholding basic human rights.

Unfortunately in the year 2016 we find that these words are being put to the test, and the world has forgotten the evils of the past as it has allowed fellow members of the human race to face an organized policy of hate, discrimination and murder. The Rohingya population of Myanmar/Burma are fighting a battle of survival and are facing a Hitler like type of Buddhist government that has rendered them stateless, and spearedheaded for the last half century a policy of ethnic cleansing and annihilation.

Where is the United Nations? Where is the world? Who will care just an inkling and help?

To understand the plight of the Rohingya people, which have been declared the most persecuted group on planet earth by the United Nations, we must understand the history of the issue at hand. The Rohingya peoples come from the region of Arakan State in Northern Burma. Their recorded history can be traced back to the ninth century and even further thousands of years, and a monarchy lineage can be traced from when the region was part of the Rhakine Kingdom which occupied land in what is present day Bangladesh and Myanmar.

This Kingdom of Rhakine was under the rule of the Rohingya peoples until January 2nd 1785, when the Burmese Kingdom conquered it. Later when the British took control of Burma the Arakan region was incorporated along with Burma into the British Indian Empire. The Rohingya peoples later became of the modern Burmese state when independence was gained from the British following world war two. They had Burmese citizenship, and where a part of the social and political atmosphere of the Burmese nation. All that changed when in 1962, the military led by Ne Win overthrew the civilian AF-PFL government under prime minister U Nu.

Since 1962 a policy of discrimination and ethnic cleansing has been imposed on the Rohingya people. History does not happen overnight, and half a century of such a policy has created the crisis that the Rohingya presently find themselves in. From that period on, the Rohingya have been facing organized persecution under Myanmar law, which has taken away their right to work, continued on page 6.
Ecuador’s 7.8 Magnitude Earthquake: The Giant Building Task

On April 16, a devastating earthquake with a 7.8 magnitude on the Richter scale, struck the Pacific coast of Ecuador. The death toll of April 16 earthquake has risen to 660 people, according to Ecuador’s government news reports.

“The country is in crisis.”

In the days that followed Ecuador was shaken by several strong tremors and more than 700 aftershocks, causing more panic between the surviving population, but add little additional damage. Country’s geology institute reported that tremors are to be expected to continue for several weeks.

Earthquake survivors were receiving food, water, and medicine from the Ecuadorian government and scores of foreign workers. Nevertheless, according to Reuters, President Rafael Correa publicly acknowledged that due to bad roads aid to some communities was delayed. President Correa estimated the damages caused by the earthquake at $2.5 billion to $3.8 Billion.

In the light of a giant rebuilding task, temporarily increased taxes are to be expected, the government said, stressing that the earthquake areas would be exempt. Significantly reduced oil revenues in the OPEC country already contributed to the prospect of having millions of people dealing with near zero financial growth and lower investments. President Correa’s leftist Government might offer assets for sale and possibly issue bonds abroad to fund reconstruction.

The tourism sector took an extreme hit, and despite the government’s efforts to ensure all world travelers that Ecuador have many other places worth visiting tourist are shying away. Warnings from health experts about air quality and the threat of mosquito borne viruses in the quake area leading the list of reasons why tourists are staying away.

On May 4, on ONUITALIA.COM Marco Filippo Tornetta, Italian Ambassador in Quito, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador, Guillaume Long, signed a new debt swap agreement that will free money to use in development projects in Ecuador, a country that was badly hit by the strongest earthquake in decades on April 16.

According to local Ecuadorian authorities, the six provinces along the coast, Esmeralda, Manabi, Santo Domingo, Santa Elena, Guayas El Oro and Los Rios suffered sustained between 30% and 90% rates of destruction and remain on the red alert as the first emergency phase is officially closed. Humanitarian work is underway.

In the aftermath of the earthquake, the death toll reached 660 people, and nearly 10,000 people injured, and a severe blow to the social and economic of the affected regions.

The agreement, which follows an emergency package to the World Food Programme (WFP) of about half million Euros, marks the beginning of a new program whose whose total value is 36 million Euros, which will ensure a substantial contribution to the livelihoods of those affected.

According to the ONUITALIA.com article, following the earthquake, the Ecuadorian government decided to direct the funds freed by the debt swap operation to finance initiatives that could give a timely and effective response to the natural disaster.

Wounded Combat Infertility

Every veteran needs some help when coming back home from war, especially when they have been wounded on the battlefield. This is where the importance of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs plays a big role. Many of these veterans want to come home to their wives and start a family. But some of these wounded veterans cannot start the family they want due to these injuries. Veterans seek in vitro fertilization to give them the medical help they need to be able to have children, but the law does not permit that the VA (Veterans Affair) to provide that service. The VA provides a list of the medical services and they do not provide for veterans. In this list, spas, gender alteration, abortions, abortion counseling, and cosmetic surgeries are not included. These veterans don’t believe that in vitro fertilization should go in this list because this is not something they can freely do on their own. They would have to pay for each attempt out of their pocket, which is $12,000.

Tyler Wilson, a corporal who was shot in the spine during a firefight in Afghanistan, leaving him paralyzed from the waist down, was surprised when all his medical expenses were paid for but in vitro fertilization was not included. Now, it makes sense that the VA cannot provide certain services that can pretty much be named as personal out of war necessities, but when a soldier’s ability to have children no longer exists due to an injury that occurred on the line of duty, Wilson believes that they should receive the help. He and his wife don’t have the money to make the attempts on their own.

The opportunity for male soldiers to freeze their sperm to conserve it was open, but there women who also suffer from injuries that prevent them for being able to conceive a child.

Michelle Wager, an Army Staff Sgt. was injured by a roadside bomb in Baghdad. She lost a leg, a fractured vertebrae and a brain injury, and so she and her husband (who also served but is now retired) are having trouble conceiving. Some injuries affected the brain, and ability to produce certain hormones that contributed to becoming pregnant. Some couples have waited too long for help and because it never came along, it is too late for any type of help. Other couples just can’t afford trying to get pregnant by intrauterine insemination because not even that is guaranteed. Kathleen Causey is the wife of a Sergeant who was injured at war, and due to his injury they cannot have kids. She is terribly upset with Congress not taking the issue seriously and even said to the NY Times, “We’re only in this situation because he chose to serve his country, and now his country is not taking care of him”.

These couples want Congress to allow the V.A. to provide the help they need to be able to have children. These veterans believe that due to the fact that they were injured serving their country and doing their job, that the VA should provide this service for them. It’s not like they were injured doing something else, so they think that it is only fair that this law changes in favor of veterans who were injured on line of duty. It seemed as if the bill in favor of these veterans was headed for a vote, but Senator Patty Murray withdrew it due to some amendments that Republicans were passing regarding Planned Parenthood which would have prevented the VA from working with Planned Parenthood according to The New York Times. She claims that she will not give up on trying to get this law passed, she wants to let these veterans know that their country has their support.
Earth Day, April 22

By Carlos Ordonez

Earth day has been celebrated every year on April 22, since 1970. We only have one Earth, so we need to take care of her. That’s what senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin believes. A lot of people ask themselves what is Earth Day? What is the purpose or how did it start?

Everything started with an idea in 1962, but a few years passed after Gaylord Nelson, the founder of Earth Day, announced that in the spring of 1970 there would be a nationwide grassroots demonstration on behalf of the environment and invited everyone to participate. More than 20 million people participated in this event around the United States. Also, thousands of schools and universities helped to create what we call today Earth Day on April 22.

Since then, Earth Day has become an annual event to demonstrate support for environmental protection. For me Earth Day is every day. We all should take care of this planet where we live. We should help to have a better environment. We all can do it, if we just follow instructions. Some of the things that we shouldn’t include not throwing garbage on the streets, not wasting water and always say yes to recycling. We all should implement this at home, and that way we all be contributing and helping this beautiful place where we all live. A lot of people don’t that a tree can absorb up to 48 pounds of carbon dioxide per year, which is great for our environment. Also, one large tree can provide a supply of oxygen for two people. This is why we all should say NO to deforestation, and we all should teach our new generation to take care and protect the forest. This is the 46th year that we are celebrating Earth Day. On the 50th anniversary, one organization plans to have planted 7.8 billion trees. Let’s go all and help to reach that goal. Believe or not what will be helping our new generation to have a better place to live. We can all just start with planting a tree in our backyard or in parks and areas where they can grow and help the environment.

I asked a few people in my neighborhood and here at QCC about what are they know about April 22nd, and more than half of the people didn’t know that we celebrated Earth Day that day. That means that most of the younger generation care less about the Earth Day, and that is terrible because if this new generation does not care about our world how do we think that we going to help to improve the quality of life and our environment. Let’s all think a little bit more about what we are doing to help to take care of the place where we live. Think about it, if this is all we have where else can we go?

The Rohingya Question-
A Test of U.N backbone

continued from page 4

their right to marriage, movement and religion. They are facing systematic killings, rape, destruction of mosques and homes. They are living “The night of long knives” on a daily basis. It is the Burmese final solution to their created Rohingya problem. According to John Sifton of the Human Rights Watch, who is also the director of the Asia advocacy organization, when interviewed by Al Jazeera described the situation on the ground as being toxic, and one if not the most gruesome and blatant violations of human rights he has ever seen. The Burmese government has even been quoted as saying that the Rohingya people must leave the country, their homes of thousands of years and be taken in by another nation. Statistics highlighted by the Council on Foreign relations states that up to 120,000 people have fled on smugglers ships, and more to neighboring countries who will accept them. United Nations Refugee agency puts the Myanmar Rohingya up to 120,000 people have fled on smugglers ships, and more to neighboring countries who will accept them. United Nations Refugee agency puts the Myanmar Rohingya population to be around 1,500,000 and more than ninety percent of them live in camps, have been in limbo for months living, dying as no nation has willingly stepped forward to take them in, or live in over crowded government imposed squalid lands where their movements are restricted. Even with the reinstatement of democratic rule in 2016 with the election of Htin Kyaw as president, no steps have been taken to improve the situation of the Rohingya people.

In 1948 The United Nations in its infancy at the general assembly in Paris, France accepted and made into international law resolution 217A. This agreement sets the common standard of achievements for all peoples and all nations. It set out for the first time the fundamental human rights that are to be universally protected by all nation members of the United Nations, along with several other charters that must be agreed upon for membership to the U.N. The Burmese government with their treatment of the Rohingya peoples are not adhering to this agreement, and must be reproached for this by the entire global community as a whole. It is the responsibility of every nation to uphold its requirement’s for continued membership to the U.N, and the many benefits that come with it. The United Nations and the international community faces a test, will it unite and face the problems of the world united and strong, or will it let down the Rohingya people.

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 2016 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 Alisa Cercone at : ACercone@qcc.cuny.edu

The COMMUNIQUÉ:

It’s Your Paper!
2016 NYC Auto Show

From the dates of March 25th to April 3rd a list of newly unveiled automobiles lit up the red carpet at the New York City auto show and opened their doors to thousands of enthusiasts anxiously awaiting the unveilings. Notable new releases include those from Toyota, Chevrolet, Maserati, and Porsche. Toyota’s display at the show was the All-New Prius Prime plug-in hybrid. This vehicle is said to have created a niche for itself in the hybrid car segment of the market which it currently dominates. This model Prius carries a 1.8 liter engine and its battery range is expected to reach 22 miles, which is a substantial increase from the previous generation model. Next on the list is the newly released 2017 Chevrolet Camaro ZL1 which is now in its sixth generation. Equipped with a 6.2 liter LTu engine and a ten speed automatic transmission, the Chevrolet Camaro is capable of producing an estimated 640 horsepower and 640 pound feet of torque. This model is considered the most powerful Camaro ever built. 

The more upscale and luxurious showcases were the Maserati Levante Sport Utility Vehicle and the Porsche Macan. The Levante is Maserati’s first ever luxury SUV for the brand and will be seeing a starting price of about $72,000 for its base model and topping off at around $83,000 for its highest trim model. The top of the line model Levante will put out 424 horsepower from under the hood. Production numbers for the Levante are projected to reach approximately 30,000 from now through the end of 2017. Porsche on the other hand has introduced their Macan SUV which is a reasonably priced vehicle and also a blast to drive. This four cylinder SUV will arrive at dealerships in July, at a price of $48,000 and includes a destination charge of $1,050.

Other unveilings include the Lincoln Navigator, Lexus LC500, Mazda MX and the Acura MDX. The vehicles seen at this event were nothing short of spectacular.
A Different Kind of Movement: Hope for the Future

By Christopher Beccarelli

Of all the problems to have in the world, being paralyzed from the neck down is without a doubt one of the most debilitating and scary things that can ever possibly happen to a person. Five years ago, college freshman Ian Burkhart went through this very thing, and to this day has remained paralyzed. Having a fun day on the beaches off the Outer Banks of Northern California, he dove head first into a wave and was met with a broken neck. The human will is strong however, and Mr. Burkhart endured for five long and grueling years before modern medicine was able to give him an incredible dose of hope. With incredible technology, Mr. Burkhart, now 24, was able to move his right hand for the first time in 5 harrowing years. A small start perhaps, but what this can potentially mean for the future of those suffering from quadriplegia is astounding. Implanting a chip into Mr. Burkhart’s brain two years ago, doctors spent a long time calibrating and setting up the proper technology and computer systems before giving Ian his hand mobility back.

It was a long shot at the time, with Ian himself believing that the surgery that would be performed on his brain was not something he needed for such a shot in the dark, but ultimately decided to go ahead and take the risk. The way it’s done sounds simple on paper; bypassing the spinal injury and sending his thoughts from the chip directly to his hand muscles. This, however, did not happen over-night, and it took Ian a long time to focus his thoughts enough to link up with the computer systems. Immediately after the surgery, Ian was put to the test, working hard to ensure that the firing patterns of his brain properly matched up with the cable that was sending them to the computer he was linked up to.

They started small, and after dozens of hours of repetition and practice he was able to start his training full time. An avatar on the screen in front of him showed him what to do, and which hand movements to make, and eventually he was able to focus solely by himself and without the help of the avatar. A little of a year later he was able to pick up a bottle and pour it, before picking up a straw and stirring the contents. Finally he was able to fully control his one hand enough to partake in playing a video game with guitar controller.

Doctors were quick to warn, however, that this is not a full cure for paralysis by any means, just a small glimpse of hope into the future. Ian himself was only able to utilize the movement of his hand while in the lab and linked up to the computer, and since it isn’t wireless he goes back to having no mobility at all much to the disappointment of Ian’s family. Initially against the idea of volunteering himself for a long shot brain surgery, they’ve lamented that it wasn’t to the full benefit of Ian, rather it only benefited moving the science along; Ian however disagrees, believing it to be something that will eventually lead to people like him getting real help for their disabilities.

Though there is a silver lining to the whole tale and the doctors are delighted, they’ve come to grips with the fact that there are still hundreds of improvements to be had to make the rehabilitation less invasive and more affordable. The funding for the project, which provided by Ohio State, Battelle and a few private donors, is also set to run out. Without the proper funding, so to ends Ian’s time with his new found freedom of movement.

Ever hopeful, however, both the doctors and Ian himself know that this is not the end of the advancements that will be made to help people with quadriplegia. The future is rife with possibilities, and although short-lived, Ian’s time spent with this incredible technology will be a boon to further research down the line.

APPsolutely Worth Trying These!

By Victoria Graham

If you are a music lover then Pandora, Spotify, iHeartRadio and YouTube Music are amazing, customizable and a must-try. Pandora radio is effortless and makes it easy to create stations from your favorite artists, songs, genres, or composers, giving you a wide variety to listen to and making it perfect for those who are looking for some new tunes. Spotify is another free music app that is always up to date with new releases. In addition, it allows you to create personalized playlists with only music you love and choose. The downside is the numerous ads that pop up after just three or four songs. Luckily, there is the Spotify Premium option you can pay for. For students, Premium’s price tag is $4.99 a month with “no ads, no limits, just music.” For those on a budget, the iHeartRadio app is free and multipurpose. You can choose from everything and anything, between the world of music, news, podcasts, sports, comedy shows, and radio, in one simple app. Lastly, a trending music app is YouTube Music. This little gem gives the listener a chance to have background music even while using a different app, no longer making to us choose between Instagram or listening to music. It also has an offline playback feature, a noteworthy touch for those of us keeping track of our data. All of this and without paying for it! Overall, download any of these free apps on your iPhone or Android, make an account, then tap a track you love and see where your music takes you.

If you’re into taking pictures, photography, or you just cannot find the photo you’re looking for, then Google Photos is the app for you! Within the app your photos and videos are organized by geotag, better known as location, or you can create albums or collages. Also, looking for a specific photo or video is easier because you can type a word or date to narrow down your search. If you want to display photographs in a specific order then try the Pinterest app. It has everything you can imagine, from cooking
To Read or Not To Read?

By Rhonna Hussein

What is the true reason why teens these days don’t read like they used to? Are they not being taught by their teachers? Is it because of new technologies and social media? Is it the parents’ fault for letting them use technologies freely? Are they too lazy? Are they’re not into books, but prefer reading online? Are they too busy with school and after school activities? Or maybe it’s all of the above.

I asked 20 people their thoughts on this issue and as I expected, the majority of them claimed it was due to technology and the Internet. Smartphones, social media and so many distractions were to blame in most of the answers I received. I’ve read many articles discussing this issue and they all can agree on the fact that smartphones is the number one source of this dilemma. I on the other hand don’t believe that there is only one reason for teens not reading like they used to. Some teens just simply don’t like to read and if they have the choice to read, they much rather sleep.

Pretty Little Liars, Mean Girls, Forrest Gump, and The Lying Games. Did you know these shows / movies are actually based on books? I bet you half the youth population never knew that. Teens probably don’t read like they used to, due to the fact that they have no reason to since there’s already a movie or show based on the book. Therefore, there is a decision to be made between reading a 500 page book within a month or watching a two and a half hour movie with special effects such as one of the most famous series Harry Potter. Which would you decide?

I admit I knew the Harry Potter movie series were based on books by J.K Rowling since the second movie came out, but that didn’t mean I wanted to read the book. I preferred seeing the magic on screen regardless of the fact that my uncle and cousins recommended me reading the book. The book seemed too big and long, so I thought that watching the movie within 2 hours and 30 mins would spare me the time. I thought that the movie is anyways based on the book so therefore it basically covers the whole entire book from beginning to end. What’s there to lose?

Now don’t get the wrong idea here. I’m not saying it’s better to watch the movie than reading the actual book. Watching the movie rather than reading the book isn’t an actual win win. But think of it this way, if you were a teen and your school assignment was based on a book and there was a movie based on that book, wouldn’t you try to take the easy way out? Here’s the issue here, teens lack the knowledge of how powerful a book can really be than watching it on screen. The directors and screen writers already have their own imagination on how they perceive books. I mean they are the ones who read the books and make it come to life. That’s their job. They know how they perceived the book and what they got out of it. So is it their fault for taking away teens imaginations? Are they the source of the youth’s lack of interest in books?

Although many people believe that teens don’t read like they used to because there are different forms of entertainment available today and society itself is run by technological advancements and constantly being updated with popular information like the Kardashians, Hanan, a student from Kingsborough thinks that, “the generation’s concept of reading has never changed.” She goes on stating, “you will always have your book worms and your not so book worms. You’re going tell me people in the 80’s all enjoyed reading! With every generation we’re all the same with slight change. I grew up loving to read books, it varies in everyone.”

Going back to the question of what is the true reason teens these days don’t read like they used to. Did they stop reading? No. They never stopped. However, studies do indicate that the rate of teens reading decreased ever since technologies have been advanced and teens read less and less as they get older with “45% of 17 year olds saying they read by choice once or twice a year” in the past 30 years according to Charlotte Alter from TIME. But keep in mind, as technologies advance, so do the number of movies being based on top selling books.

My point here was not to indicate that advanced technologies and movies being based on books is the only cause of teen’s lack of interest in reading, but to point out that there is more than one factor. Even though technology seems to be the source of this issue, it is also the growth and change of society.
We Call the Shots

By Gabrielle Slatnick

The United States has one of the safest and most effective vaccination histories up to this point. Vaccines are held to the highest standard of quality and safety, and the debate around them rages on as to whether they are safe or not. The fight for and against vaccines are a sensitive topic because it involves the aspect of parents wanting to protect their children as well as themselves. There are parents who oppose vaccinations because they feel it could harm their family members instead of protecting them, filling them with long-term effects. Other parents feel the opposite and think vaccines exist for a reason, and then instead of filling them with negative side effects they help further protect their loved ones.

Vaccinations protect your body from viruses and diseases, and while the positives and negatives are often stated, it’s believed that they help in some way.

There is a whole process that goes into making these vaccines because they will be going into your body, so the science that goes into creating them is vital in terms of making them safe and non-harmful. According to vaccines.gov, “Vaccines undergo a rigorous and extensive evaluation program to determine safety and effectiveness.” Nothing goes through or gets approved without the FDA (Food and Drug Administration) CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) and NIH (National Institutes of Health). The FDA’s job is to make sure that the scientific information supports safety and a desired result. They also make sure if the vaccine is approved they monitor and inspect them at the factories and the regulations are followed. A small percentage of people do feel side effects, although the statistical data on whether they’re real or imagined is often sparse.

Results from vaccines are claimed to range from mild problems to severe disorders. Some of the the mild problems according to Vaccines.gov are headaches, upper respiratory tract infection (about 1 person in 3), stuffy nose, sore throat, joint pain (about 1 person in 6), abdominal pain, cough, nausea (about 1 person in 7), diarrhea (about 1 person in 10), fever (about 1 person in 100). The severe problems are blood in the urine or stool, pneumonia, and inflammation of the stomach or intestines. This is what scares some people away from getting vaccines or even because they are afraid of the medicine harming their child’s well being. People and or parents are scared that vaccines would increase or create mental complications such as autism, and this has been a huge debate over the last couple of years.

The science behind it all confirms no link between vaccines and autism because according to cdc.gov, eight tested vaccines given to children and adults and the results found that with rare exceptions, these vaccines are very safe and cause no mental or physical problems. There were a certain amount of vaccines tested on both children, and adults to see how it would affect them, and those results indicted no signs of harm and those people were fine. It was said “One vaccine ingredient that has been studied specifically is Thimerosal, a Mercury based preservative used to prevent contamination of multidose vials of vaccines. Research shows that Thimerosal does not cause ASD.” Since 2003, nine CDC funded or conducted studies found no link between Thimerosal containing vaccines in ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder), measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine in children. Besides Thimerosal, there were concerns about other ingredients in vaccines in relation to ASD as well. No links have been discovered between any other ingredients and ASD.

A uniform consensus can’t truly be reached because as is always the case when it comes to the human body, everyone’s immune systems are different. A person’s body fight off colds and sicknesses differently. Some parents have an old school mentality and believe your body should fight off the sickness instead of the vaccine. It depends on how strong your antigens and antibodies are which are both connected to each other. Our bodies contain and need a lot of proteins and nutrients, which help develop a strong and viable immune system to stave off several diseases. According to everydayhealth.com, steps to take for a strong immune system is the following; stop smoking, avoid sugar, limit coffee, reduce alcohol, eat healthy fats, eliminate toxic foods from your diet, and raise your PH levels. By doing so it can destroy and kill invading bacteria, viruses, microorganisms and other related pathogens and lead to a healthier life.

With that being said vaccinations have both negative and positive effects that vary based on the people receiving them. Some love Vaccines, some hate them, but it’s a matter of one’s own personal viewpoint is at the end of the day. In the end your health can very well rest in your own two hands, but it can never hurt to seek out extra help and garner some extra precautions against sickness.
**Antibiotic Overuse**

**By Rachel Vella**

Antibiotics are prescribed medications used to help treat or cure an illness. What a lot of people do, with or without really realizing, is overuse or misuse them. This happens all the time, and it is a serious danger to one’s health if you don’t use your medication properly.

Although they do help with many sicknesses, kidshealth.org states, “overprescribing them leads to becoming resistant to the medication, making it so that it is no longer effective.” Also you must be aware that all medications do have side effects, so if it gets overused, the side can worsen.

The two main germs that cause people to get sick are bacteria and viruses. Bacteria are defined as living organisms that exist in a single cell. Most of the time they don’t cause any harm and can actually be beneficial to your health. Viruses are the causative agents of an infectious disease. These organisms are not alive and can’t exist on their own.

As said before, antibiotics can have serious and dangerous side effects, and overusing them can in fact create bacteria that are harder to kill. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), overuse of antibiotics by humans, means that these drugs are less effective for all of us. According to ScientifcAmerican.com, researchers estimate that antibiotic resistance causes costs Americans upwards of $20 Billion in additional healthcare costs every year stemming from the treatment of otherwise preventable infections.

A recent CDC study shows that children who are given antibiotics for upper respiratory infections are more susceptible to aggressive antibiotic-resistant strains of the bacteria commonly known as C. diff. These bacteria are found in the gut and can cause severe diarrhea, and is to blame for 250,000 infections in hospitalized patients and 14,000 deaths every year in children and adults. Antibiotics also help teach good bacteria to go bad and are raising cases of untreatable gonorrhea.

Not only should you already know overusing antibiotics isn’t necessarily the best thing to do, but it can cause serious health problems, even though they’re there to help you feel better. Not everyone realizes how dangerous it can be, and it’s important that you research these things since these drugs are going into your body, or just ask your doctor.

**Need Plans for Your Summer Break?**

**By Asia Salley**

Most people don’t have plans for summer break because they are wrapped around tight schedules and more importantly their studies. Most students are looking to find an affordable but fun place where they can enjoy their summer break. If you’re struggling to find a go to, exciting place to enjoy your spring break here are the top four places to enjoy your vacation.

1. Cancun is listed under the world’s top getaway places, and a real hot spot for a fun getaway. Cancun is located in Mexico and is known to be a beautiful place to vacation. The Hotel of Zone is a go to place if you’re a student looking to have fun. There are a lot of resorts, parties and beaches where you can to enjoy yourself. Rent a car, travel and enjoy your break in beautiful Cancun!

2. South Beach, Miami is another place people love to spend their summer break. Miami has great temperatures and cool drinks, with plenty of places to go see. Some consider Miami to be pricey while others consider it to be cheap, but the overall consensus is that it’s a worthwhile place to go for a fun time. Miami provides vacationers with a beachy feel, and if you’re struggling to find a hotel to stay at while on break, Hotel Chelsea is considered to be one of the best hotels in the Miami area. This hotel is located near all of the partying and clubbing spots. These clubs have hookah, good music and good people always ready to party. Students love this hotel because it is closer to the beach than most hotels.

3. Las Vegas, Nevada -- not only are you surrounded by Casinos, but you can go to resorts and you can have lots of fun for the money you spend. The infamous Las Vegas strip offers parties and clubs that don’t close until very late, and in the non-stop action is incredibly fun for those used to the humdrum way of every day life. There are places located in Vegas where you can zip line, Jet Ski and just overall relax at. You can accomplish a lot if you decide to take a trip to Vegas for your break, and the crazy nightlife, dozens of landmarks and fun atmosphere will stick with you long after you arrive back home.

4. Punta Canta, located in the Dominican Republic, is home of good weather, beautiful scenery and most important the parties. The good weather allows swimming, relaxing on the beach, jet skiing, surfing and many other activities that include being in the water. Clubs are open until the sun rises, which means you can party until you want to stop, and there are places that have all-inclusive deals, which would make your trip a bit cheaper. All-inclusive resorts usually give you three meals a day, beverages and things of that sort so you are always getting a good deal for the money you spend.

Don’t spend your entire summer break home; Go out and enjoy yourself! You worked hard all semester, and you deserve to have a little bit of fun before your next semester approaches and summer break is gone.

**Harry Potter World in California**

**By Vincent Cacchione**

Seven years after the beloved series ended, Harry Potter is still taking the world by storm. With the Universal Studios Tour in London featuring actual sets and props from the movies, and the successful Harry Potter Theme parks at Universal Orlando, and Universal Japan, there is no doubt that the love for Harry Potter lives on. In light of Orlando’s booming success, Universal Studios Hollywood finally gets a taste of magic with the opening of their own Wizarding World of Harry Potter.

The original Universal Studios Hollywood welcomed this new addition on April 7th after the huge successes of the Wizarding World in Orlando and Japan. “We saw in 2010 how it impacted our Orlando park [and now] we have a new center of gravity,” says Larry Kurzweil Universal Studios, Hollywood president.

Attendance in Universal Orlando jumped 30% when their Wizarding World opened in 2010 while Walt Disney World’s attendance dropped by about 1.5%. “Disney might take a small dip this year because local people will decide to go to see Harry Potter,” said Gary Goddard, a theme park designer who has worked for both NBCUniversal and Walt Disney Co. The park took 5 years and an estimated 500 million dollars to bring to life according to the LA Times.

The park is very similar to its east coast counterpart in Orlando, recreating the village of Hogsmeade with the Hogwarts Castle as its jewel in the crown, housing the fan favorite ride called Harry Potter and the Forbidden Journey. This immersive 3-D ride takes you through the heart of the Hogwarts castle and is many people’s favorite ride. That’s not the only fan favorite they brought to California from Florida. Fans and park goers can buy all the merchandise they can think of from wands, robes, shirts, quills, candy, ice cream, stuffed animals all from iconic shops from the books. “We’ve always aimed to be as authentic as we can, even down to the name of the shops. They’re called shops, not stores,” said supervising art director Alan Gilmore. The park also brings back the Flight of the Hippogriff and the Hogwarts Express rides. Stars from the films such as Tom Felton who played Draco Malfoy showed up to celebrate the park’s opening.

Also like Harry Potter World in Orlando, people can eat at book locations like The Three Broomsticks and Hog’s Head Pub. Buttebeer can also be purchased at various carts throughout the park.

In its infancy, Universal Hollywood only features the Hogsmeade park, however due to the success of Universal Orlando recently adding the largely popular Diagon Alley as an extension to their Hogsmeade village, it will be interesting to see what new additions Universal Hollywood will be adding to their ranks in the future. The Diagon Alley addition not only made the Harry Potter park experience fuller for the Orlando Universal studios, due to its fire breathing dragon, and second immersive 3-D ride called Escape from Gringotts, but it introduces a revolutionary feature that makes the park one of a kind. Upon arrival to the park, visitors are able to purchase a custom wand from the wand Store Ollivander’s. Not only is this a cool keepsake, but it becomes an interactive experience in and of itself. Around both Diagon Alley and Hogsmeade are interactive spell locations where the person can actually perform spells by moving their wand in a specific way. This fun, interactive experience has become a trademark of the parks.

With the opening of this new park, the release of the new book Harry Potter and The Cursed Child in July, and Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them coming out in November, we still have much more to experience in the world of Harry Potter.
Cheer and Jeers at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame

By Irene Drivas

On April 8, 2016, The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony took place in the Barclay’s Center in Brooklyn, New York. This event was phenomenal, filled with lots of unforgettable moments. There was many successful artists that were inducted into the hall of fame, such as Deep Purple, Chicago, Steve Miller, N.W.A, and Cheap Trick. They were eligible to be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame because their first recording was released more than twenty-five years ago. The inductees were also chosen by 800 voters of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Foundation and some online voters. According to rockhall.com “The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and museum’s mission is to engage, teach and inspire through the power of rock and roll.”

It was a significant and touching moment to lots of fans because they got to watch most of these bands get back in action. The fans being able to hear some of their favorite bands perform after so many years was indeed exciting, fans charged up enjoying the performances. Unfortunately, N.W.A didn’t but mostly everyone else got the opportunity to perform for this ceremony.

Deep Purple performed “Hush”, Chicago performed “Saturday in the Park”, Steve Miller performed “Fly Like an Eagle,” “The Joker” and “Rock ‘N Me” and the famous Cheap Trick who stole the show while performing their hit “I Want You to Want Me.” The crowd went wild. Everyone was up on their feet singing along, and Cheap Trick did such an amazing job. Although it was a successful night for all these inductees everyone was looking forward to hear Cheap Trick perform. However, it was still a magnificent night for everyone.

This year’s ceremony also honored the Ahmet Ertegun Award for Lifetime Achievement Inductee Bert Berns who died at 38 in 1967 after seven years in the record business from heart failure. Sadly, he left behind a wife, three small children, friends, fans and some angry enemies. Berns did take some shortcuts in this industry because he was instructed by a doctor that he wouldn’t live to be twenty-one. He didn’t make his first record until he was 31. He then successfully made 51 records that made the charts in seven years. He was best known for the co-writer of early rock and R&B hits including “Twist and Shout” and “Piece of My Heart”, as well as hits for Van Morrison’s first solo hit “Brown Eyed Girl” and some hits for Morrison’s band including “Here Comes the Night” and “Baby Please Don’t Go.”

Many of these bands came together for this ceremony, though some still aren’t on great terms because they’re still holding grudges from the past. For example, in the band Chicago they had a bass player/singer named Peter Cetera who left the band in 1985. Cetera was invited to the ceremony and he did agree to perform with them, until the very next day when Lamm stated, “Cetera emphatically declined the invitation to perform.” Peter Cetera actually didn’t even bother showing up to the event overall. Another unfortunate moment was when The Black Keys regrettably wished they didn’t have anything to do with Steve Miller being inducted into the Rock and Roll hall of fame. When The Black Keys gave a speech inducting Steve Miller the rocker performed but was unpleased with the whole ceremony.

According to the huffingpost.com “During the obligatory press room Q&A Steve Miller first serenaded everyone, then expressed this displeasure towards the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame stating, “When they told me I was inducted, they said, ‘you have two tickets- one for your wife and one for yourself. Want another one?’ It’s $10,000- sorry that’s the way it goes. What about my band? What about their wives? They make this so unpleasant.” At the actual ceremony Steve Miller looked happy especially after Rick Nielsen from Cheap Trick presented Miller with a “Miller” guitar.

Although Cheap Trick had an amazing performance they did manage to have some difficulties with their ex-bandmate Bun E. Carlos. Carlos and the band have fought in court and a federal lawsuit was also involved. Carlos said in an interview with Rolling Stone “Any friendship we had went away when I had to file a federal lawsuit.” Most of the speeches were still mostly nice, although the lead singer Robin Zander talked about “backstabbing and corruption in the business” After that comment he handed the podium over to Carlos but he didn’t mention any of the problems the band had.

During the ceremony MC Ren called out Gene Simmons of KISS, who started complaining about hip-hop artists being inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Many were saying that they shouldn’t call it the Rock and Roll hall of fame if they aren’t inducting Rock and Roll members. Some believed N.W.A wasn’t considered a Rock and Roll band. Of course Ice cube had something to say about that. Cube stated, “The question is, are we rock and roll? I say, you’re goddamn right we’re rock and roll! Rock and roll is not an instrument, it’s not even a style of music, it’s a spirit. It’s been going since the blues, jazz, be-bop, rock and roll, punk rock, heavy metal and yes, hip hop! What connects us all is that spirit.”

Although there was some drama, there were some great performances and speeches. The ceremony was amazing and we congratulate all those who were inducted in the 31st Annual Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. We thank them for their unbelievable talent throughout the years. These kind of ceremonies are needed to remind us how fortunate we are to have such talented bands and to always honor the ones that bought this kind of music to our hearts.
In any typical U.S. sport, no game can end in a tie and the clock counts down not up. Except soccer, a sport whose recognition is seldom when compared to football and basketball. That is until summer, when everyone from around the globe will have the opportunity to watch champions from different nations compete throughout the 50 states. Formerly known as the South America Championship of Nations, a tournament established to celebrate the centenary anniversary of Argentina’s independence on July 9, 1816, Copa America Centenario will be hosted outside of South America and right here in the United States for the first time since its inception in 1916. The 2016 Centenario, which is honoring 100 years of Copa America tournaments, will be a little different. CONMEBOL has partnered with U.S. Soccer and CONCACAF to create a more extravagant version of the tournament. Starting June 3, 10 cities across the U.S. will host 32 matches with teams from 16 different countries, all competing for the title, brought together from two different confederations: CONMEBOL for South America and CONCACAF for North and Central America, and the Caribbean. The inaugural (#1) match will be United States vs Colombia held in the Levi Stadium in Santa Clara, California, commencing the 24 day competition with the final match being held on June 26 at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey.

Earlier this year in February, the four pots, or groups, for the Copa America Centenario Draw was held in New York City. It determined how the 16 teams will be drawn into four groups of four teams each, with each team set to play the other teams in their group once. The top two teams in each group will advance to the knockout round, culminating in the June 26 final. If tied at the end of regulation, group stage matches will end as a draw, while knockout round games will move to two 15-minute periods of extra time. If the teams are still tied after extra time, the game will be decided by a penalty kick shootout.

Among the world’s greatest competing this summer is Lionel Messi, Luis Suarez, Javier Hernandez, Sergio Agüero, Willian, Alexis Sanchez, James Rodriguez, our very own Clint Dempsey Jr and other distinguished players have chosen to compete in the Olympics instead. Some may recall Copa America was held last year with Chile being crowned the winner and Argentina finishing second after a tense penalty shootout. So why hold 2 of the same tournament back to back? This Copa America Centenario is just a comparative celebration of the tournaments commencement, which the CONCACAF federation was invited to participate in order to make the tournament grander and memorable. This Copa America Centenario is essentially a giant soccer party with most of the nations in North and South America collaborating. That being said, Chile is and will remain the Champion of the Copa America regardless of who the winner of the Centenario Tournament will be. Furthermore, when the Confederations Cup rolls around, a tournament between the champions of each confederation, Chile, the CON-MEBOL (South America) champion, will be representing South America in that tournament in 2017. Some have already responded to the centenary by questioning Chile’s position in the second pot despite having won last year; more notably, claiming it’s unreasonable to win a trophy which ultimately means nothing-not even a slot in any upcoming tournament-but to life-long soccer fans it means validation, and an answer to the most anticipated question: “How will the U.S. National Team fare against the great South American giants of Uruguay, Argentina, and Brazil?”

For those unfamiliar with the rules for this tournament, mlssoccer.com has graciously provided us with a simple breakdown. “The tournament format is relatively straightforward. The 16 teams will be drawn into four groups of four teams each, with each team set to play the other teams in their group once. The top two teams in each group will advance to the knockout round, with the eight remaining teams then playing a single-elimination, win or go home tournament culminating in the June 26 final. If tied at the end of regulation, group stage matches will end as a draw, while knockout round games will move to two 15-minute periods of extra time. If the teams are still tied after extra time, the game will be decided by a penalty kick shootout.”

Sports
Copa America Centenario: Welcome to The United States
By Lissett Young

In any typical U.S. sport, no game can end in a tie and the clock counts down not up. Except soccer, a sport whose recognition is seldom when compared to football and basketball. That is until summer, when everyone from around the globe will have the opportunity to watch champions from different nations compete throughout the 50 states. Formerly known as the South America Championship of Nations, a tournament established to celebrate the centenary anniversary of Argentina’s independence on July 9, 1816, Copa America Centenario will be hosted outside of South America and right here in the United States for the first time since its inception in 1916. The 2016 Centenario, which is honoring 100 years of Copa America tournaments, will be a little different. CONMEBOL has partnered with U.S. Soccer and CONCACAF to create a more extravagant version of the tournament. Starting June 3, 10 cities across the U.S. will host 32 matches with teams from 16 different countries, all competing for the title, brought together from two different confederations: CONMEBOL for South America and CONCACAF for North and Central America, and the Caribbean. The inaugural (#1) match will be United States vs Colombia held in the Levi Stadium in Santa Clara, California, commencing the 24 day competition with the final match being held on June 26 at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey.

Earlier this year in February, the four pots, or groups, for the Copa America Centenario Draw was held in New York City. It determined how the teams were seeded based on their Copa de Oro (Gold Cup) ranking and how, at random, competing teams were chosen. From June 3-14 the group matches will be held. Each win earns the team 3 points, a draw (tie) earns them 1 point, and a loss earns them 0. The top two teams from each pot will move onto the Quarterfinals. The Quarterfinals will be held from June 16-18, where the first and second place teams from each group play against each other. “In the Semifinals, taking place June 21 and 22, the winners of Game #25 and #27 will play each other, as well as the winners of Game #26 and Game #28. The winner of [each match] earn their spot in the Final, while the other two teams play in the Third Place match” which will be played on June 25.

Every soccer fan is elated at the idea of having a major soccer event held so close to home. As The New York Times states, “The federations announced the creation of the centennial tournament with much fanfare, calling it the most important international sporting event to come to North America since the 1994 World Cup and the 1996 Summer Olympics.” Since the announcement was made on May 1, 2014 that the U.S. will be hosting, it gained popularity for local teams, such as the New York Cosmos and New York Bulls, and the U.S. Men’s National Team (USMNT), increasing their revenue on tickets, soccer jerseys, cleats, and other memorabilia. Despite being a highly anticipated worldwide event, media coverage has been minimal up till now as other domestic matches, such as The Champions League which corresponds to the European UEFA confederation, is in its final two weeks. Even with its lack of press, the Centenario has been deemed as ‘one of the biggest soccer tournaments... on U.S. soil.”

Soccer has not had an ample presence in the U.S., although it is one of the most globally watched sports. Not only will this years’ games bring more recognition to the sport but perhaps incite Americans to join the global soccer community and encourage fans to support their national team while continuously encouraging the soccer fan base in the U.S. to grow. With every country represented in FIFA, the U.S., being one of the most culturally diverse countries in the world, will create an atmosphere not experienced since the World Cup in ’94. Not to mention, the popularity amongst Americans has grown since the United States’ performance in the 2014 World Cup in Brazil, which provided a higher sense of union amongst Americans who proudly wore their team jerseys. As the celebration continued, NikeTown was overrun with fans of all ages trying to get their jerseys personalized and ready for game day. The intensity of fans will this year be unrealistic even knowing, due to the intensity of playing and potential risk of overexertion, Neymar de Silva Jr and other distinguished players have chosen to compete in the Olympics instead.

The Champions League which corresponds to the UEFA confederation was held in New York City. It determined how competing teams were chosen. From June 3-14, Oro (Gold Cup) ranking and how, at random, the teams were seeded based on their Copa de Oro (South America) champion, will be representing South America in that tournament in 2017. Some have already responded to the centenary by questioning Chile’s position in the second pot despite having won last year; more notably, claiming it’s unreasonable to win a trophy which ultimately means nothing—not even a slot in any upcoming tournament—but to life-long soccer fans it means validation, and an answer to the most anticipated question: “How will the U.S. National Team fare against the great South American giants of Uruguay, Argentina, and Brazil?”

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Among the world’s greatest competing this summer is Lionel Messi, Luis Suarez, Javier Hernandez, Sergio Agüero, Willian, Alexis Sanchez, James Rodriguez, our very own Clint Dempsey, and many, many more. This tournament showcases the importance of culture diversi ty, unity amongst nations, and commemorates a sport with over 100 years in the making. Best of luck to all the players!
Sports

WrestleMania 32

By Steve Zoelus

On April 3rd, 2016 AT&T Stadium in Dallas Texas broke the WWE attendance record with 101,763 fans present. The highly anticipated pay-per-view broke seating records and also had historic matches take place. Any fans were waiting to see Shane McMahon vs the Undertaker for control over WWE’s weekly show Monday Night Raw. Fans were buzzing about this match specifically because Shane returned after a couple years and the match was being held in the famous Hell in a Cell match.

Legends made appearances such as the Texas Rattlesnake Stone Cold Steve Austin, Shawn Michaels, and Cactus Jack. Foley, Austin, and Michaels were staples of the much cherished attitude era of wrestling, widely considered to be the greatest era in WWE history. Their returns brought back fond memories of this beloved time period, as all three men brought the crowd off their feet by hitting their signature moves. Another historic event was the debut of the WWE Women’s Championship. This was very important to the industry because they ended the divas championship and the Women’s title represents the beginning of a new and improved Women’s division. The new championship was up for grabs in a triple threat match between the current title holder Charlotte, Sasha Banks, and Becky Lynch. The winner of the match was Charlotte who won due to her Father Ric Flair’s interference. Flair is a hall of famer and 16-time world champion but has been known to be a cheating competitor throughout his years in the company.

After Charlotte won the belt Ric has been teaching her the tricks of retaining the belt and has interfered in her matches when she was on the verge of losing. Ric Flair has been by her daughter’s side for most of her title matches which led to her title reign over the past couple months.

The Undertaker has had an amazing run and a legendary record at WrestleMania. When Brock Lesnar conquered the streak at WrestleMania 30 in New Orleans everyone thought it was over for the Undertaker but his 211 record did not stop him as he continues to entertain the WWE universe every year at WrestleMania. The Hell in a Cell matches have been known to be in the Undertaker’s favor because he is tough to defeat in the cell and tortures his opponents. One of the highlights in his match against Shane is when Shane Climbed the top of the cell and took a leap of faith and just missed the Undertaker who was barely moving on the announce table. The entire stadium erupted because throughout Shane’s matches he has put his body on the line repeatedly and sadly he couldn’t cement his legacy against the Undertaker who was once again Victorious in the Cell. Another match fans were buzzing to see was the main event for the most prestigious belt in the WWE, which is the WWE world heavyweight championship. Triple H who had defeated the contender and former champion Roman Reigns were squaring off once again. Both who are at an elite level in the industry have started a rivalry that was settled at WrestleMania when Roman Reigns defeated Triple H to successfully retain his title and have his WrestleMania moment that other superstars dream about.

WrestleMania 32 was an unforgettable moment for its superstars and fans worldwide. For 32 years WrestleMania has been entertaining millions and many refer to it as the Super Bowl of the WWE. WrestleMania 33 already is set to take place in Orlando Florida where many are looking forward to relive the experience.

MMA Finally Scores a Win

By Tyriec Simon

After years of being denied by the state, New York has finally legalized Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) as a sport. Many organizations participated in countless protests and debate for MMA to be legalized; most notably the UFC is the biggest victor. Over the years, MMA has become a very popular MMA organization and has gained major success, creating stars in pop culture like Ronda Rousey, Conor McGregor and Jon Jones in the process. What was once looked down upon by people and called a “blood sport” has now become as popular or more so than boxing. MMA has been legalized in every other state in the country, with New York being the last to get on board. A question can be asked, why the city that never sleeps that holds the most respect and love in the country in Madison Square Garden waited so long?

The fight for MMA to become legalized in New York has been a long battle for the UFC since the organization’s inception. During its early years, MMA actually was legalized in New York with the help of then Governor George Pataki on October 10, 1996. The UFC held their event called UFC 7 in Buffalo, which at the time had their largest attendance with 10,000 people. Like now, the UFC ultimate goal was to eventually host an event in Madison Square Garden and they wanted to slowly gain acceptance from critics of the sport in the process. The plan was to have several events upstate to gain popularity and prove that MMA is a legit sport, before making their debut in Madison Square Garden. The problem that would arise is that the organization and the sport faced bad publicity, specifically from the press.

Articles written by The New York Times were made negatively in spite of the sport and its legalization. The sport would be labeled “Barbaric” and considered “Human cockfighting”. The UFC didn’t help matters, because in their early years they didn’t have guidelines or rules to not be criticized. They allowed things that would be deemed illegal in sports like boxing like head butting, kicking a ground opponent and hair pulling. At the time they didn’t even have judges to score the fights, a time limit/rounds and a weight class, which meant people of different sizes and weights would fight against each other.

The UFC was going to hold their second event upstate in Niagara Falls, but before they could the negative attention brought to the sport at the time would ultimately result in it being banned in New York on February 25, 1997. The person to sign the bill to ban MMA in New York was none other than Governor George Pataki himself, which he ironically legalized less than a year from the date. Then senator at the time Roy Goodman who helped orchestrate UFC becoming illegal in New York stated the following which was covered by MMAfighting.com “This legislation will put an end to unbridled human cockfighting which can seriously injure constants and which was a terrible example to our youth”. From then on the UFC would move on to become a globally powerful brand and a dominate force in MMA. It would correct their early mistakes by making rules that their fighters had to abide by, creating weight classes; having proper time limit/rounds and having judges score a fight like boxing. The organization has even elevated female fighters, which has become revolutionary in representing women in today’s society, with athletes like Ronda Rousey and Holly Holm.

Now with MMA being legalized in New York, the UFC is looking to bring in big money and so is Governor Andrew Cuomo. It’s already being expected that when the UFC debut it’s Madison Square Garden, it is going to bring in a large

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BY Nicole Queirolo

revenue to the state of New York. As first reported by foxbusiness.com, “Cuomo preemptively added expected ticket and cable revenues to the state’s 2017 fiscal budget”. The CEO of the UFC Lorenzo Fertitta talked with CNN back in late December when he said “Because we are a private company, we don’t get into profitability (publicly), but we’ll generate around 600 million in revenue for the year 2015”. Even small MMA brands like Bellator MMA are expected to make an impact due to the power economically, the New York market has. With the MMA legal in New York, the UFC has already targeted November 12 for their long awaited debut in Madison Square Garden. First reported by MMAJunkie.com when speaking on their debut in Madison Square Garden Fertitta had said, “It’s going to be an epic moment for the sport and for our company, when we go to New York and we eventually debut at Madison Square Garden, me and (UFC President) Dana (White) and the rest of the team are going to be very focused on delivering for the fans.” This year is already becoming a big and historical year for the UFC and for MMA, as now they have gained a long awaited victory.
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