QCC Gives Students the “Edge for Success”
Raising $18,000 for Scholarships

BY RACHEL POULOS

Since its beginning in 2007, the Walk to Aspire has raised more than $100,000 for student scholarships that give students the opportunity to attend Queensborough and give them the “Edge for Success.” The 2012 – 2013 Walk to Aspire fundraising event started on October 4th with a pep rally in Robert F. Kennedy Hall and extended into the Walk to Aspire two-mile walk around the Queensborough track on March 20th. QCC students were encouraged to join clubs and get involved with the department heads and club leaders to participate in the Walk to Aspire event, where they would come up with fundraising ideas that would take place from October throughout March until the two mile walk. Raffles, bake sales, games and contests were held and promoted throughout campus in preparation for the Walk to Aspire, and on March 20th, 2013, students, faculty and staff arranged themselves into their respective fundraising teams. Wearing t-shirts, hats, participants held up signs and banners that advertised and supported their specific teams such as Nuts and...
### CUNY News in Brief

#### New CUNY Student Service Corps seeking Not for Profit Partners and You

**By Kay Morgan**

The City University of New York launched its Student Services Corps website on March 15th to introduce a new student volunteer opportunity starting this fall. The program was created in partnership with New York based charitable organizations already serving the city's disadvantaged communities. In addition to providing an avenue for community service the program hopes to expose students to experiences aligned with their major or primary area of interest.

The first draft of applicants will be recruited from 5 colleges starting in April. When the program is completely rolled out to all the CUNY colleges total Corps membership is expected to be 1000 students.

Corps members will be the faces of CUNY’s community outreach but they will work at sites owned or managed by CUNY’s partners and will earn an hourly wage. Admission is competitive. A sincere passion for and demonstrable commitment to helping others is an absolute requirement for consideration.

#### QCC Professors use IBM Custom Designed Program to Identify Students About to Fail.

**By Kay Morgan**

The old Paul Robeson High School on Albany Avenue in Crown Heights, Brooklyn is rising like a phoenix from the ashes of ignominy into the national spotlight.

Many Americans had not heard about this crucible for a cutting edge experiment in education before President Barack Obama lauded it in his State of the Nation address on February 12th this year.

The Pathways in Technology Early College High School, truncated to the more efficient “P-Tech” is housed in a 110 year old beaux arts creation of architect S.B.J Snyder. The building has seen the rise and fall of several “schools” within that period. P-Tech, the latest iteration, is the brainchild of a collaboration between New York State educators and big business – IBM and CUNY.

Academic performance was not a criteria for their selection. In fact, several of them had been taking classes subject to Individualized Educational Plans, were older than regular classes, be exposed to a real world classroom via visits to IBM facilities, be offered internships and be guided by mentors.

The school’s founding principal, Rashid Ferrod Davis, reports that in its two years of operation the proficiency levels in math and English at the 8th grade level at P-Tech has improved such that 74% of the students have already passed English and Algebra Regents exams.

#### Crash near La Guardia Community College, one fatality

**By Kay Morgan**

Four LaGuardia students were injured on March 11 on a sidewalk adjacent to the college when a minivan plunged into them. As the driver reached out to catch an object falling inside the vehicle, his van veered onto the sidewalk at Skillman Avenue and Thompson Avenue. Drudak Tenzin, on his way to Applied Communications High School two minutes down the block from LaGuardia was killed. Skillman Avenue, Thompson Avenue, and the 59th Street Bridge ramp merge in the same location. Community leaders protested the lack of barricades to shield pedestrians from vehicular traffic postling for access to the Bridge. The Long Island City Post learned from LaGuardia’s Student Government President, Shah Amanat, that student government petitioned the New York City Department of Transportation last year to review the safety of the intersection and the timing of its crossing signal. The DOT responded in November that the signal timing was acceptable.
Queens College and LaGuardia commit to Pathways.

BY KAY MORGAN

Starting this fall, LaGuardia Community College and Queens College will be following the new CUNY Pathways curriculum. Students enrolled before fall 2013 may opt-in to take courses now prescribed under Pathways or may continue with their original schedule of courses. Queens College cautions that changing courses could impact eligibility for financial aid. Other colleges in the CUNY system are still embroiled in a debate about whether to adopt Pathways.

New York Students Have Their Own DREAM Act

Meanwhile, Washington continues the debate between the two chambers on the immigration reform bill that would provide a path to citizenship for the 11 million undocumented immigrants in the country, among which are the “dreamers” who seek a career particularly in community colleges as QCC.

Democratic Assemblyman for the 39th District in Queens, Francisco Moya who is the mentor of the project of the New York State DREAM Act (NYS DREAM Act) responded in written form the following for Communique.

Can you do a brief overview of the New York State DREAM Act?

The NYS DREAM Act (A2597) has 3 main parts. The first part is to create the DREAM Fund Commission that will raise private money to be used for scholarship for the children of immigrants. The second part of the bill will amend the requirements to apply for tuition assistance programs (including HEOP, EOP, and other state funded financial assistance programs) to include a way for undocumented students to apply for TAP. We make the requirements for eligibility for undocumented students align with the current eligibility requirements they must fulfill to receive in state tuition rates. We also included a statement that undocumented students will be required to file an affidavit with the higher education institution that will pursue legal status when they are eligible to do so. The final portion will allow family tuition saving accounts ($29 accounts) to be opened with a valid tax payer ID number rather than requiring a social security number.

How long did the New York State Assembly to pass the New York State DREAM Act?

The New York State Assembly passed the DREAM Act(A2597) in their one house budget resolution this session. Last year, during the 2012 legislative session, the Assembly passed the DREAM Fund as a stand-alone bill. The DREAM Act had previously been introduced; however this was the first legislative session for the new version of the bill. Versions of both the DREAM Act and DREAM Fund bills were introduced in 2011.

What requirements must be met for students to apply for the New York State DREAM Act?

What requirements must be met for students to apply for the New York State DREAM Act?

By Hugo Ramirez

Queens Assemblyman Francisco Moya

The New York State promotes its own version of the DREAM Act to help thousands of undocumented students to continue their university studies. The initiative is part of a national movement to assist young people who were brought by their parents as children. Although many have attended New York schools from kindergarten through 12th grades, they are left in limbo after graduating high school, ineligible to receive federal tuition assistance, scholarships, grants or loans.

A report published by the Immigration Policy Center pointed out an estimated 146,000 youth in New York who have been educated in New York public schools are currently ineligible to receive financial aid under federal and state law. Of the more than 4,500 undocumented students who graduate from New York high schools every year, only 5-10% pursues a college degree due to tremendous financial obstacles.

Baruch’s Zicklin School of Business Gets Rave Review

BY KAY MORGAN

US News and World Report, a source relied upon for its annual reviews of higher education institutions in the US, ranked Baruch among the 100 Best Business Schools for 2014. The college’s part-time MBA program also made the cut and Baruch’s School of Public Affairs is also top tier at number 46. The publication reports that salaries and bonuses Baruch graduates attract place them in the 66th percentile of business school graduates nationwide.

In other news, CUNY Law School dubbed “The Worst Law School” in 2011 when only 67% of its graduating students passed the American Bar Examination reported a much improved passing grade of 83.5% in 2012. US News & World Report 2013 ranked CUNY Law No.143 of the best law schools and the school’s clinical preparation program 4th best in the nation. Nevertheless, Long Island City’s CUNY Law still has its detractors. The administration is being criticized for offering students an extra semester tuition-free. The bonus semester, it is alleged, effectively pushes back the date its students sit the exam, ostensibly to allow them more prep time for the bar.

What requirements must be met for students to apply for the New York State DREAM Act?

Currently undocumented students are able to receive in state tuition rates at SUNY and CUNY schools. The qualifications to be eligible to apply for TAP as an undocumented student in the DREAM Act mostly match those requirements, but specifically an undocumented student must:

• Attended a registered New York high school for 2 or more years, graduated from a registered New York high school and applied for attendance at the institution of higher education for the undergraduate study for which an award is sought within 5 years of receiving a high school attended an approved program for a state high school equivalency diploma, received a diploma and applied or attended at the institution of higher education for the undergraduate, study for which an award is sought within 5 years of receiving a high school equivalency diploma.

• Must qualify for in state tuition rates at the State University of New York (“SUNY”), the City University of New York (“CUNY”) or community colleges.

• Students who do not have lawful immigration status will also be required to file an affidavit with the higher education institution that he or she has filed an application to legalize his or her immigration status, or will file such an application as soon as he or she is eligible to do so.

These are requirements for applying; once an application has been filed undocumented students must meet the same criteria as all students to be awarded aid.
Straphangers Swipe back at the MTA.

Jesse Myerson a New York journalist and activist reporting on the Swipe back plan. Myerson aims to educate the public about the underlying reason for the fare hikes and who really benefits from them—the banks that financed New York’s Transit Authority’s construction projects.

Myerson reveals an Interest Rate Swap agreement with the banks that the MTA inked to refinance interest payments on a preexisting loan. In a swap a bank will source money at lower rates than a borrower could find on its own and lend it with added fees. Payments change hands as interest installments come due on the old loan. In this instance, the bank agreed to source the funds at prevailing rates and the MTA agreed to repay higher in exchange for fixed rate payments. Whilst swap agreements usually benefit both parties, one getting the fixed rate it wants and the other getting the prevailing rate it desires, this swap did not turn out to be so equitable for the MTA.

When the financial market imploded in 2008-2009 the Federal Reserve introduced policies that lowered interest rates and have kept them low. Consequently, while the bank provides interest installments that are successively cheaper the MTA is committed to rates considerably higher than current market rate. Presumably, the MTA is losing money and, presumably, it is transferring some of the shortfall to commuters by hiking fares.

New York City Transit’s 2013 Commitment Plan for its capital program includes real time information systems on platforms, wireless access underground, rider tracking of buses above ground, camera surveillance in buses; and the upkeep and rebuilding of tracks and stations. Critics of the MTA debt and fare increases say some resources are being diverted to neighborhoods targeted for future gentrification like the proposed 7 train extension to Hudson Yards on Manhattan’s west side and the renovated Javits Center and to new retail locations like the new Fulton Street complex. Improvements and extensions they say would better serve older, more populous neighborhoods and more commuters would benefit.

If MTA debt is making fares more expensive for everyone and especially for the 34% earning less than $25,000 a year, arguments about who benefits most should be evaluated regardless of whether your bus terminates on Beach 105th Street in the Rockaways or you exit the subway on a block adjacent to the uber-pricey Brooklyn Yards.

Since 2007 bus and subway fares have gone up 4 times and there has been little organized public outcry. This resigned attitude may portend failure for the 2013 No Fare Hike campaign. On the other hand, a popular response to the call by the group to swipe fellow riders onto the buses and trains could reveal the true level of fare hike fatigue and outrage New Yorkers feel.

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Volts, supporting Engineering Technology and A³ for The Education Academy and the Future Teacher Society, along with other teams that took part such as CSTEP and the Haitian Club. Each team walked eight laps around the college track to celebrate their individual accomplishments and organized a travelling bake sale in which an assortment of baked goods were set up at different points around campus, and finally extended to the track while the teams walked towards their goals. The two mile walk was accompanied by the 92.3 NOW radio broadcasting live as the 21 teams involved raised more than $18,000, proceeds going to the “Aspire Scholarship Fund.”

The “Edge for Success” campaign, launched by the Queensborough Community College fund, is part of The City University of New York’s “Invest in CUNY Campaign,” which set out to meet a $25 million fundraising goal by 2015. The “Edge for Success” goal is to give QCC students the opportunity to attend and complete college through events like the Walk to Aspire which promotes the fundraising “fury” by including all QCC students, faculty and staff together to raise enough funds to meet their yearly goal. The 2012 – 2013 goal is $25,000, and will continue to raise scholarship funds through May 1st in addition to the $18,000 they have already collected.

The Walk to Aspire 2013 events came to an end with the QCC official college mascot, the Tiger, leading all participants on the track to dance to the Harlem Shake. The video can be found on the official QCC Student Government Association Facebook page, or on YouTube under “Harlem Shake QCC (CUNY).”
where are the thinkers

who will foresee the forces of nature?

OPEN HOUSE
Saturday, April 13
Saturday, April 20
10 a.m.

Changing the world requires revolutionary thinking that goes above and beyond, and at Vaughn College that’s the type of thinking we instill in you. Our students come with vision and expectations and leave ready to challenge the ordinary in the fields of engineering, technology, management and aviation.

Vaughn offers an array of master’s, bachelor’s and associate degree programs – including one of the only degree programs in mechatronic engineering in the New York metropolitan area – and a faculty who is grounded in real-life experience. It’s no wonder that 92 percent of our graduates are employed or continue their education within one year of graduation.

Set your sights on Vaughn College and start thinking above and beyond.
Swipe back at transit austerity!

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
Opinion

Could you survive off of $15,080 a year in NY?

By Shannel Smith

Once a national leader, minimum wage in the State of New York is now the federal minimum at just $7.25 per hour. Meaning New Yorkers get the same rates as someone living in places with much lower costs of living, like Iowa or Oklahoma. Minimum wage has failed to keep up with the rate of inflation over the past 40 years, and Congress has passed legislation to increase minimum wage only 3 times within the last 30 years. It is wrong that the federal minimum wage rate cannot ensure a fulltime worker the ability to get ahead, let alone get by. Low wage workers have been facing wage stagnation for the past 40 years yet inflation is continuing to grow. This is why 19 states have chosen to raise their minimum wage rates past the federal minimum and New York needs to jump on board. It is unjust that by law a yearlong full time worker is only guaranteed roughly $15,000 annually. As the wealthiest nation on earth we have failed to keep up with the rate of inflation. In fact the minimum wage of $1.60 an hour in 1968 would be $10.56 today when adjusted for inflation according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics’ Consumer Price Index. This means minimum wage has actually gone down $3.31 per hour. Facts show that 76 percent of workers who earn minimum wage are over the age of 20. The majority of people receiving these low pay rates are not teenagers, but college students and adults. It is impossible for an adult or any college student to live off of roughly $15,000 a year and afford medical insurance, rent, and dental. More and more people are falling below the line of poverty due to these ridiculously low wages. That has got to change.

In order to assure that a full time worker is compensated fairly, and to insure greater economic equality the minimum wage rate would, at the very least need to be tied to the rate of inflation. If the minimum wage rate were to be adjusted for inflation it would be at $10.67 per hour and $22,193.60 annually since its height back in 1968. However the New York State Assembly seeks to raise the minimum wage to $9.00 per hour within the span of three years. Meaning in New York’s minimum wage will increase to $8.00 in 2014, $8.75 in 2015, and $9.00 in 2016. Critics who oppose the minimum wage increase would argue that raising the rate would mean fewer jobs, or harm small businesses. But studies show no direct correlation between minimum wage increases and employment. In fact a case study conducted in New Jersey and Pennsylvania in 1992 by economists Alan Krueger and David Card, showed that employment actually went up…?.. Card and Krueger analyzed fast food restaurants in New Jersey and Pennsylvania to see what effect a minimum wage increase would have on employment. They raised New Jersey’s minimum wage from $4.25 per hour to $5.05 per hour while keeping Pennsylvania’s rate at $4.25. They found that stores in Pennsylvania and fast food restaurants in New Jersey increased employment by 13 percent. Stores that were unaffected by the minimum wage had the same employment growth as stores in Pennsylvania, while stores that had to increase their wages increased their employment. This just helps to show that increasing the minimum wage rate could actually increase employment.

In regards to the economy, The Fiscal Policy Institute estimates that increasing New York’s minimum wage to $9.00 per hour will generate more than $1.1 billion in new economic activity. It will also support the creation of 10,200 new full-time jobs as businesses expand to meet increased consumer demand. Although the minimum wage rate and inflation aren’t tied yet, this bill is a step in the right direction. For a lot of people, more specifically for those who work for more than 1.5 million working New Yorkers it will mean less hardship restoring hope in these tough economic times.

It is time to start stimulating the economy again and with over a million people living in poverty, the economy will never be restored. This minimum wage increase is long overdue and in order to prevent future wage stagnation not only for the State of New York, but for our nation, we really need to link the wages to the inflation rate.

“"No" Means "No"; Did Steubenville Miss the Meme?

By Rachel Poulos

Early in February 2013, two 16-year-old boys were set for trial in juvenile court in Steubenville, Ohio, for the rape of a 16-year-old girl on the night of August 11th, 2012. The trial divided both the town of Steubenville and the rest of the nation through worldwide media coverage that closely followed the case until the verdict was set. Ma’lik Richmond and Trent Mays were found guilty of raping the 16-year-old girl who was too drunk to consent while pictures and videos of her were taken before she was left to fend for herself the following morning. Those who testified in defense of Richmond and Mays, the Steubenville High School “Big Red” football players, vehemently argued for their innocence, saying that the victim was lying and appeared to be consenting despite her intoxication, because she had willingly left with one of her attackers. But these claims were quickly dismissed and contradicted by three other young boys who had recorded the assault and gave testimony stating that they were guilty, and that the victim was far too drunk to know what was happening to her. They were given immunity in exchange for said testimony, while the victim continued to defend herself against those who claimed that the two boys were innocent.

The community in the town of Steubenville values their sports teams and revered the football team that Richmond and Mays were part of. A large majority of the town came out to support the boys’ innocence before the verdict was delivered. Many argued that the community had been siding with the boys because of claims that the Steubenville High School sports program controls politics in the small city. The Huffington Post reported that Steubenville appears to be a town where “special prosecutors and a visiting judges are handling the case because local authorities knew people involved with the football team.” Despite the photograph of the young girl posted publicly on Instagram with accompanying tags of “rape” and “drunk girl” in their posts, the town of Steubenville seemed to side with the boys while victim-blaming the young girl. Rather than expressing outrage at the two young men who committed an illegal and deplorable crime against an intoxicated minor, the victim herself became the center of blame in the town that continued to celebrate the football team and discredit the victim throughout the entirety of the case, until the boys were ultimately found guilty.

Their defense team had made it clear that they believed the boys had enough evidence to claim that the victim was not affirmatively saying no, but it became difficult for the defense to argue that case when their own expert, Dr. Howie, had been found on cell phones confiscated by the police. The text messages exchanged between Mays and one of his friends revealed, in his own words, that the girl was not aware of her surroundings. The New York Times reported, “In its victim files, the defense of Mays stated that he had sexual intercourse with the girl, but in other texts, he denied it. Mr. Mays also texted that the girl ‘was like a dead body’ and that he did not try to have oral sex with her because ‘she would have thrown up.’” The defense ran into more trouble when even more testimonies came out from two more witnesses including Jake Howard, who stated, “It was just minutes later that she lay in the street in front of the house, puking on the pavement with her shirt off, wearing only a bra, as a group of boys watched.” Another witness, Patrick Pizzoferrato was asked by Marianne Hemmeter of the prosecution asked if the girl was the drunken person in the room, to which he replied that she was.

Regardless of these statements, the boys’ defense team continued to discredit the victim’s claims, sparking media fueled outrage nationwide about whether or not this was a defense strategy that is “typically focused on discrediting the victim in any way possible to distract and bias the fact-finder, as if how victims dressed or what they drank involved the attack,” says Jennifer Gentile Long, the Director of AEquitas: The Prosecutors’ Resource on Violence Against Women, which helps prosecutors in cases involving violence against women. Other members of the Steubenville community have continued to blame the victim as if it caused more popularity. The founder of the school website went so far as to say that the victim “can’t possibly be scared for life if she wasn’t conscious. These kinds of comments and support of the prosecuted sparked online outrage months before the case went public about the crime committed against her. Even the football coach, Reno Saccocia, has been accused of knowing what happened to the victim months before the story broke to the public, and using his ties and connections in the town to keep the boys out of trouble so that he could keep his two star players on the team for the remainder of the season. Though the boys have been found guilty, it has done little to ease the minds of those involved and supportive of the victim’s experience. Readers of the Huffington Post came forward with their opinions on Steubenville and were outraged even after the verdict was set because of how the case was handled along the way by mainstream media and individuals who were on the side of Richardson and Mays. “What message did the town of Steubenville and their sports program, along with all those in who covered it up and blamed the victim, send out to the rest of the world? That ‘no’ means ‘no’ but ‘unconscious’ might mean ‘yes’ as long as you can throw a football?” says one reader who sent in her response to Huffington Post online. “When CNN’s Poppy Harlow spoke emotionally about how the boys’ visceral reaction to their sentencing was “difficult to watch,” when news networks showed footage of the boys breaking down in sobs as they were sentenced, when reporters used phrases like “allegedly drunk” to drum up distrust for the victim - they are all showing the world that rape is okay, so long as you and your secrets are worth keeping. Because what’s a few counts of sexual assault when you’re a star high school football player, right?”
Blood on the Tracks

By Maria Fabregas

When you live within one of New York City’s 5 boroughs, even if you own a car, at one point or another, there will come a time where you will have to ride the MTA. The MTA is probably the most reliable source of transportation for most of NYC’s community. It can take you anywhere in NYC. Thousands of people rush to get into work every day from queens to Manhattan or from queens to Brooklyn or the Bronx and vice versa. Even though most commuters make it safely to their destination, an increasing number of riders are not. In fact, the number of riders injured or killed by trains has gone up in the last year.

2012 took the title of most subway deaths since 2007. Out of 141 reported incidents that took place last year, an amazingly high number of 55 deaths involved suicides, riders under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or sick commuters that fainted or fell onto the tracks, and even maniacs that pushed victims into the tracks of terror. This year is off to a bad start as well, seeing that there has already been a significant number of incidents. The circumstances have begun to drive people to wonder if hopping on the train is the best choice.

The solution is Change. Changes need to occur in order to bring the number of deaths down. Picture waiting for the train inside the subway. Not being able to glance over to see if the train is coming, because there has been a transparent wall installed along the platform of the station that does not allow access to the train tracks. You suddenly hear the train approaching and as the train comes to a full stop, all of a sudden the transparent walls glide down and disappear into the ground. The train doors open and you are on your way. That is one solution. Another possibility, similar to the transparent gliding wall is the idea of platform doors, which have already been installed in places like Paris, and Tokyo. The doors would glide open as the doors of the train would, people would get out and in of the train and as the train doors close, so will the platform doors, preventing a way into the tracks while the train isn’t present. Since the MTA has responded to the idea of platform doors being overly costly, there should be other solutions explored. For instance, the need for a higher number of police officers patrolling the subway areas at all times. A more simple solution that the MTA should explore is the idea of slowing the trains down as they reach each station. Doing this can make a significant difference in the number of deaths. It would be easier to help someone get off the tracks while there is a train approaching at a much slower speed than normal. Not only will it make it easier for the victim to save themselves, but the Train conductor can see that there is a person in the tracks and can slow down even more, that way even if the victim gets hit, the impact will not be as bad as it would be if they were struck by a train at full speed.

How about that new fare increase? If you weren’t already aware, the MTA fare increased from $2.25 to $2.50 in March of this year. Not only did the fare increase, but now, if you misplace your Metro card, to obtain a new one, there will be a fee of $1.00. With this new fare increase should come some changes. We shouldn’t pay as much as we are paying to ride the subway in fear of being shoved down the tracks or accidentally falling into the tracks of an incoming train.

What’s a life worth? Wouldn’t it be worth almost any amount of money if we could save just one person a year? Now imagine saving 50 people every year. That’s a graduating High School class every decade. California spent $50 million on a suicide barrier for the Golden Gate Bridge to prevent about 30 deaths a year. Shouldn’t we do the same for New York’s commuters? It is obvious that something needs to happen. The way all train stations in NYC have been designed makes it so easy to fall right into the tracks or to be shoved by someone else in front of the train.

Catch Up With President Baker

By Paul Mencos

Our Student Government President, Preston Baker has served a full tenure as our President and is soon leaving his position due to graduation. I never had the opportunity to get to know Preston and his experience as Student Government so I decided to interview him on his involvement and the day to day operations as the Student Government. Preston was very kind to give the opportunity to interview him and share his knowledge not only to me but to all the Queensborough Community Students. I asked Preston questions based on his tenure as Student Government (SGA) President and some questions that are based about him such as his lifestyle and some rundown questions of how he feels the Student Government can succeed in the future after he leaves; improvements more or less.

Hello Preston. During your tenure as Student Government President, I know that there have been events conducted and for the most part I hear they are very exciting and interactive. Can you tell me about the support the Queensborough Community College students give to these events?

Yes, we have much support on campus. Most of the events we’ve had are packed out; we have an open door policy which allows us to interact with all students.

That’s great to hear. Also is it true that there is a SGA app for Queensborough Community College students?

The Oohlala app is downloaded in the app store and you use your tigermail to sign in. It has our school come up and you have tried it? Also we are going to do a $250 treasure hunt on the App soon, sometime in March.

Sadly I haven’t but I will after this interview, I like the idea very much though because the mass majority of students all have mobile phones. The treasure hunt sounds fun, can you tell me and the readers more about it?

It’s all by GPS; basically it last a few days, 2-3. What would happen is students will see who has the treasure. Once they are in a certain distance they will be able to capture it, and then have time to move away. The prize will be based on who has it the longest and who has it at the end. Also with the app people get badges for the events they attend and at the end of the semester the person with the most badges will receive a surprise at the end of the semester.

The treasure hunt event sounds very enjoyable. With the Oohlala app, can you tell me how this idea came about and what is the price to obtain this app?

There was a goal to get more students active and a few colleges spoke of the app. We connected to the administrators and now our goal is to push it. Also this app is totally free.

That’s great to hear; especially the price of this app might intrigue some students to try it out. Now that our interview is about to come to a conclusion, is there anything you would like to tell the audience?

Nothing else to say but I will say for a long time our school has been idle. We are trying to do a lot to raise school spirit which keeps attendance up in school; also we plan to do a forum on pathways in March or early April as well as a leadership conference for CUNY.

I understand your approach, it’s all for the interest of the student and their education. Since you brought up pathways, can you tell me and the readers what it’s about and your stand on it?

Pathways is a great idea on the students behalf, it will help save students money. Students will not have to repeat courses when they transfer because schools will now accept the common core credits. It’s not perfect but overtime it will get better and better. I do feel for the faculty especially adjuncts but I was elected by students, their needs are my priorities.
The Color of Love

By Dana Singh

Let’s talk about love. Does it even matter what race or cultural background someone is from? It seems like no matter what century we’re in, this particular issue will always pose as a problem to some people. We turn our heads if we see a Caucasian female with an African American male or a Hispanic with someone who is Indian? In this day and age, we should all be used to seeing everyone mixing and matching in order to find love. Love comes in all sizes and colors. We forget that at the end of the day, we’re all human beings; race is something that we created over time in order to identify people more clearly. From the 2010 census, the percentage of interracial couples increased by 28%. This was a major increase within the last 10 years. Even though it made a great increase, you can still pretty much walk around in any location and find a least one couple that matches the scenario.

As college students, we’re among people of all colors and cultures. We tend to look at everyone as our equals. Color doesn’t really seem to grab your attention as much as it used to in earlier generations. Do you support interracial relationships? If you do, and you’re between the ages of 18-37, you’re a part of the 97% that approve. Yes, that’s right, 97% of college students approve of interracial relationships! “Research has found young adults today have more friends of diverse racial backgrounds than past generations and are more willing to have relationships with those of other races and cultures.” I completely agree with that fact. Being a college student the year in 2013, it almost seems too obvious that this particular subject is so outdated, yet back to my previous statement, there’s always that one person that has to be extremely against it. It almost makes no sense that it’s such a major issue, yet everyone seems to be okay with it.

Talking to college students from Queens Borough is a good way to put these statistics to the test. I was actually surprised at what I found. I pulled aside six students to just quickly ask them how they felt about this issue. I wasn’t surprised at what I found. I pulled aside these statistics to the test. I was actually surprised at what I found. I pulled aside six students to just quickly ask them how they felt about this issue. I wasn’t surprised at what I found. I pulled aside six students to just quickly ask them how they felt about this issue.

Some common problems that come with being in an interracial relationship are meeting your partner’s family, people will stare at you, and people might talk about you behind your back. It makes you feel like you don’t even deserve to date someone who isn’t Guyanese, because I’m Guyanese. Does that mean that I’ve never dated anyone who isn’t Guyanese? Of course I have! I’ve a few previous relationships with guys of other ethnicities, and I was open to trying new things and meeting new people. My current boyfriend is actually Guyanese, just like me. I know, it seems like I’m being a bit of a hypocrite here, but I’m not with him because of his race. I’m with him because he’s been my best friend for the past four years and we have an amazing bond that no one can ever replace. He could be purple for all I care; I’d love him just as much. That’s what being in a relationship is all about.

There are still a lot of families out there that take their culture very seriously, and it takes time to get to know them. They just use those excuses to cover up the real reason behind being with someone that’s not of their color. There’s nothing wrong with being with someone who is your culture, but you shouldn’t discriminate against those who aren’t.

I spoke to one student by the name of Nikki A. She is Filipino and has no issues dating someone of her race. She even went on to say that she has dated a few Filipinos, which was great because she felt comfortable around them. She also mentioned that she likes being around a more diverse crowd. She said “sticking to your own ethnicity causes a lot of drama over time. Sometimes, it’s just nice to get out of that one social crowd and expand and meet new people. They can teach you things you would never have known otherwise, and vice versa. It makes you more cultured. I’ve dated Hispanics and West Indians as well. I love everything about both of those ethnicities and their customs.”

Interracial relationships will always be one of those topics that will be up in the air. It’s always going to be up for a great discussion. Someone will always approve of it, and someone will always have a problem with it, whether it’s because of the way they were raised, or because they’re just plain petrified at going beyond their comfort zone. It’s strange how it can always be a hot topic to talk about since about more than half of the country seems to approve of it. Why is it still such an issue if everyone claims to be fine with it? Are they lying because they don’t want to be looked at as being a harsh non open-minded person? Or are they okay with it until it involves them or someone they know? If that’s the case, then more than half the people in today’s world are being completely hypocritical on this topic. Take a look at yourself or someone you know; have you dated someone out of your ethnicity? If you did, reflect on how it was compared to other previous relationships you’ve had in the past. What are the problems that you faced? If you’re facing or have faced problems on this topic before, I’d suggest just reminding yourself that people are just people. Race doesn’t define you as a person. Take time to get to know more about your partner, or potential partners. The more you know, the more comfortable you’ll feel. This can also help when meeting the family and friends of your significant other as well. What might be so petrifying at first, can turn out to be a great learning experience for you and for the people you’re meeting. If you haven’t ever been in a relationship with someone outside of your ethnicity, and you’re nervous on taking a chance, I’d say go for it! You might even get along with them a lot better than you think. Relationships are not built on what country you’re from, or what religion you are. It’s based on two people sharing common interests, and learning how to compromise, and understanding more about each other with each growing day.

Some people do find love with someone who is like them, me included, but others find love with someone who is the total opposite of them. Both are completely 100% okay. My main point is to be open to the idea. Just give it a try and test it out before you judge. College is a great place to meet someone, whether it’s just on campus, or at a school club. It can be a start of something greater than you imagined. Go out and find your color of love!
Noise Canceling Headphones - The hidden Dangers.

continued from cover page

everything and everyone out. I have walked into people a lot of times because I wasn’t paying attention, I was even robbed once”, said Shenielle when asked about her awareness of her surrounding when wearing headphones.

As technology is rapidly increasing, accidents related to modern devices such as headphones are also on the rise because people are distracted by the music rather than paying attention. According to a research done by Richard Lichenstein, a professor at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, headphone wearing pedestrians who have been injured in accidents have tripled in the past six years. Studies have shown that between 2004-2011 incidents and fatalities from cars and train crashes, in relation to pedestrians, were at a total of 116 fatalities during that time span. In addition, 68 percent of pedestrians injured or killed due to the loud music were males, 67 percent were all under the age of 30 and approximately 55 percent of the vehicles related in the accidents were trains. However, 29 percent of the vehicles involved in incidents used horns and other warning systems to alert pedestrians, and about three-quarters of these incidents were reported as fatalities. Distracted by the loud music being played, pedestrians block out their surroundings thus increasing their risk of getting hit by cars and trains.

The listening to loud music and being distracted, not only contribute to accidents, but also thefts. The BEATS of the music being played is a diversion of focus to our surrounding and therefore making those listening to high volume music an easy robbery target. With iPhone users being one of the highest targets to robbers, Beats by Dr. Dre is sure to out-pass iPhone users on the robbers “to steal list.” The expensive headphones that are priced between $300 and $500 are a major target for robbers recently; and have also made robberies become extremely violent since the product came on the market. “I got robbed once when I was walking home one day. My music was playing loud and I was on an empty block, when I turned around there was this guy in a hoodie that asked for my headphone. I was so scared, I gave it to him then ran off”, explained 19 year old Kai Waite a Liberal Arts student.

According to numerous newspaper organizations, when it comes to NYC there is no one that knows what’s best for New Yorkers like the “father” of NYC, Mayor Michael Bloomberg. With the controversy surrounding the “Soda Ban”, what next does our astonishing mayor has in store for his New Yorkers.

Between 1988 and 2008, 30 percent of the teenage population in New York City has suffered from hearing loss. Headphones on average smartphones, iPod and mp3 players have the ability to reach noise levels similar to those of jet engines according to a research done by faculty at University of Leicester. A sound louder than 110 decibels is known to cause hearing problems, such as deafness and ringing in the ears. However, smartphones and iPod have a maximum volume of 115 decibel, but should be listened to under 85 decibels. Aaron Simmons a student of the Liberal Arts program enjoys listening to his music at medium volume, agrees the damages caused by loud music from high quality headphones with high ranges and pitch have rapidly increase over the past few years therefore heightening pedestrian’s risks of being in an accident, getting robbed and also hearing loss. It is therefore responsible to be alert and lower music volumes in order to prevent such incidents from occurring.
By Dana Singh

As college students, we all face extremely stressful exams or homework assignments. Sleepless nights, cramming for exams, and replacing pretty much every meal with a giant cup of coffee has become a norm among college students around the world. Is this the smartest idea? Could it be possible that maybe eating certain foods while studying can actually increase your grades? If you agreed that there are certain foods that can essentially improve your ability to attain knowledge, then your answer is correct.

It’s not a surprise that eating healthy foods are better than eating junk. It pretty much comes as common sense to most people, but have you ever thought about what specific foods can help certain parts of your body? Research shows that foods can increase a student’s grades if eaten while studying. Some examples of these foods are fish, nuts, whole grains, apples, veggies, dark chocolate, spinach, berries, legumes, and onions. Each of these foods has a specific function to the human body.

Fish has a high amount of Omega 3, which is very beneficial to the body. They contain fatty acids that can help people learn in a more efficient way. Nuts also contain a lot of fatty acids. They also contain a good amount of iron. It can provide better oxygen flow to your brain, helping it to increase your mental alertness and abilities to retain information. Whole grains are a great way to go if you’re looking to expand your memory. If you’re ever snacking on cookies or chips while studying, you should exchange them for a few slices of bread or crackers. Those two snacks contain a decent amount of whole grains that can help you remember what it is that you’re studying. Also snacking on vegetables or dark chocolate is a good way to increase memory. Apples are a great snack as well. They have been known to improve academic performance. If you’re a fan of spinach, take advantage of it. Not only does it make you “popeye” strong, but it can increase your brain power, and same goes for berries as well. Legumes contain a great amount of protein, which is always a great thing. Last but not least, onions have been known to improve brain function, and focus. If you’re thinking about what you should have for dinner, instead of what to snack on, lean meats and seafood are also a great choice in brain foods.

With most of us students, we find ourselves very restless while studying but don’t know why. The reason for this is most likely poor dieting habits. It is shown that being groggy or lashing out at people is due to consuming too much junk food. This can not only hurt your grades greatly, but ruin relationships you have with people. We don’t want to be lashing out at our professors or future bosses. It’s important to take care of your health and eat foods that can help you, rather than harm you. When eating the following foods above, your body is most likely to focus on what you’re trying to focus on, instead of making your brain wonder off into space. It’s going to help you in your studies greatly, and the proof will be in your grades.

Next time you have a midterm or final, pay attention to the foods you have around you. If you find yourself spacing out, or not retaining the information that you’ve been staring at for the past hour, try taking a break and eating a few healthy snacks, and try again. You’ll surprise yourself at how much you’ll be able to remember the same information you were trying to understand before. Just remember, brain foods are the best foods!

Can Certain Foods Make You Smarter?

By Leslie A. Diaz

The new Samsung Galaxy S4 android phone is now here! The phone carrier AT&T posted an update in regards to pre-order details for the smart phone, which will be available for order around April 16 and it will be for $249.99 with a two year contract. The cost of the S4 has actually caught reviewers’ eyes because the smart phone’s cost has actually put it above the original contract price of the iPhone 5, which started at $199.99. Beginning May 1, the phone carrier T-mobile will also be introducing the Samsung Galaxy S4, for the cost of a $99 down payment, which has made the brand new phone much more affordable for consumers. Aside from the shocking prices for the smart phone, it also has much more new features and a larger size display screen than the Samsung Galaxy S3.

The Samsung Galaxy S4 has a 5-inch display screen and a quad-core processor, which gives the phone more speed in order to run. The camera has also been updated with a new feature of 13 mega pixels. The smart phone will also include internal storage model options, such as the 16GB model, 32GB model or a 64GB model. There are also new software features for the phone, such as SmartPause and another feature that goes by the name of floating touch. SmartPause is a feature where when playing a video and you look away from the phone, it automatically pauses the video for you and floating touch allows you to still be able to touch the phone screen even from a couple of millimeters away, without actually having to touch the screen.

Inclusive with all these new features, this android phone also provides wireless charging whereas, the new iPhone 5S from Apple does not. Samsung has also come out with the Samsung Galaxy S4 mini which will be released in June of 2013. The idea of the S4 mini came about because some consumers actually prefer smaller phones and not too much of a large-sized phone in their hand. Even though the smart phone is indeed smaller, (mini) it’s screen is still bigger than that of an Apple iPhone. With consumers anxious of the new Samsung Galaxy’s release, Apple is also planning on releasing their new iPhone 5S.

Recent reports are saying that Apple has already started on their new iPhone, which is the iPhone 5S. Although all the other iPhones, (4/4S/5) have come out during the months of the fall, the iPhone 5S can possibly be released in the summer, around July. Even though, the iPhone 5’s release date was delayed, the 5S should have no problem with being released out on the market on its appointed date. Some of the new features of the iPhone 5S are greatly similar to those of the Samsung Galaxy S4. The only con that has set apart the iPhone 5S is that it does not provide continued on page 12

Samsung Galaxy S4 VS iPhone 5S?
continued from page 11

wireless charging as the S4 does.

Many consumers who have purchased the iPhone 5 have had great comments about the phone's camera, so on the iPhone 5S, Apple will be including a new feature for the camera, which is called the Smart Flash. What this means is that the camera itself will distinguish whether to use a white or yellow flash depending on the lighting in the current area. Like the Samsung, the iPhone 5S will also have a new A7 processor, which will enhance the phone's horse power and also, the security of the phone will be updated as well. The phone will include a fingerprint chip that will be located under the home button and will give consumers assurance of better security on the phone. The new iPhone 5S will most likely look a lot like Apple's previous iPhone 5.

OCC Confessions

By MorrTsvi

Students share their most embarrassing moments with Communique!

1) "I have a roommate and we rent an apartment together in Astoria, Queens. She’s a bit of a party girl, and one Sunday morning I was getting up to brew myself coffee before heading to work. I was running late, so I ran out into the kitchen with just panties, and a white tanktop. I hear her door open, and, assuming it’s my roommate, I turn around to offer her some coffee as well. Unfortunately, she neglected to tell me that she had some guy sleeping over. I turn around, holding my coffee in my hand, and see him instead. I scream in humiliation and of course, spill half my coffee on my white, see-through, tanktop. I’m officially half naked and partially burnt in front of this total stranger who stood there completely amused by the sight of my crazy self. I then ran into my room and didn’t come out until he was gone! I screamed at the top of my lungs "NOOOOOO!! BAM BAM!! [The name I gave my teddy bear]" and ran outside my house to retrieve it. As I was running, I noticed my hot next-door neighbor and his friends hanging outside his front porch. I tried to get Bam Bam in a nonchalant, casual way, making it seem like it wasn’t for me- but it was too late. They definitely heard my scream and burst out laughing as I was carried it back home with me. Unfortunately, that was the “wake-up” call I needed to finally be an adult and stop sleeping with my childhood teddy bear!”

- Diana A.

2) "I have this teddy bear that was given to me when I was a child. I would never sleep without it, and this continued as I got older. A few months ago, my six year-old cousin came over and accidently threw it out the window of my bedroom onto a pile of dirty wet leaves (it rained heavily the night before). I screamed at the top of my lungs "NOOOOOO!! BAM BAM!! [The name I gave my teddy bear]" and ran outside my house to retrieve it. As I was running, I noticed my hot next-door neighbor and his friends hanging outside his front porch. I tried to get Bam Bam in a nonchalant, casual way, making it seem like it wasn’t for me- but it was too late. They definitely heard my scream and burst out laughing as I was carried it back home with me. Unfortunately, that was the “wake-up” call I needed to finally be an adult and stop sleeping with my childhood teddy bear!”

- Diana A.

3) "This is actually something that happened and it’s so embarrassing because it was on campus! I was sitting in the “Silent Study Room” on the second floor of the OCC Library, just doing some homework and minding my own business. I suddenly felt the need to get up from my seat, and made some stupid excuse to go to the bathroom. Thankfully, when I got there, class started. We’ve never spoken since."

- Ashlee M.

4) "I was at the gym and wanted to impress this girl who was a personal trainer there. I went all out on the punching bag, showing off my full strength. I noticed her looking at one point and so I looked back at her, smiling. I lost my train of thought for a second, and forgot that the bag is still swinging. Suddenly, it hits me hard and knocks me over to the ground. She ran over to try and help me, but I was too mortified to even look at her. I waved her away and limped off."

- Ronnie S.

5) "A few weeks ago I arrived early to my History class and sat inside the room, along with other students. I sat quietly, reading a magazine when all of a sudden this hot guy from the class walks in and sits right next to me. I really wanted to talk to him, so I made up some bulls**t excuse by asking him when our next exam was. From there, we started a conversation about our wacko professor and what not. The conversation was going good, until I reached into my bag to grab my chap stick. Thinking I felt it, I grab it from inside without looking and casually place it in front of my lips. I’m about to take off the cap and apply it, when I realize – wait a sec. There’s no cap here! I had accidentally grabbed my tampon instead! There I was, with a tampon in front of my lips, looking absolutely crazy. He started laughing at me and asked me "is that your lunch?" I chuckled back, and said "Oh yea! It’s a new diet of mine!" I felt so stupid. I apologized and made some stupid excuse to go to the bathroom. Thankfully, when I got back, class started. We’ve never spoken since." 

- Matt L.

6) "I had broken up with my boyfriend of two years and was a total mess for about 3 months. I didn’t want to go out with my friends and had no motivation for school either. One day, while waiting online at the OCC Starbucks, this really cute guy starts talking to me. I decide to give him my number and he texted me later, saying that he wanted to take me out to the movies that weekend. I told him yes, and was so excited that I sent a text to my best friend, telling her all that happened and how hot he was. Of course, to my luck, I end up texting him the message instead. Luckily, he was cool about it and we still went out that weekend… and still are! Five months and counting. But, he still makes fun of me for it all the time.”

- Xylina C.
Arts & Entertainment

The New Kid on the Block

Album Review: *Good Kid Maad City* by Kendrick Lamar

One of the hottest hip hop albums of the year was Kendrick Lamar’s debut LP “Good Kid Maad City”. Hailing from the streets of Compton, Kendrick always dreamed of being one of the best rappers in the game and with just one album he now sits atop MTV’s Hottest MC List. This album is a game changer, a warning shot to all other rappers, Kendrick has arrived. The first single off the album was “Swimming Pools (Drank)” and it totally took over the clubs with a banging bass and a chorus encouraging you to take a few shots. The song eventually landed number one on the U.S. Billboard Rap Charts. This is the song that initially put the spotlight on Kendrick Lamar’s talent and versatility. Having the ability to make a mainstream record and still have strong lyrical content is key in the rap game and he displayed that with “Swimming Pools”.

For his next single Kendrick had a strong follow up with “Poetic Justice” featuring hip hop heavyweight Drake. The two rappers rhymed over a smooth beat with a Janet Jackson sample in the background. In this song Kendrick showed his versatility yet again by being able to make Janet Jackson’s love song, “Any Time, Any Place” into a rap song. MTV called this song “flawless” and it reached 26 on the Billboard 100.

The third single was titled “Bitch Don’t Kill My Vibe” and after listening to the album many times it has become my personal favorite. Produced by Soundwave this song has spread throughout the internet and garnered a lot of attention with over 3.5 million views on youtube. A clean version of the song has also been getting lots of play on the radio by Hot 97 and Power 105.1. A remix of the song was recently released featuring arguably the best rapper of all time Jay-Z. MTV called this song “flawless” and it reached 26 on the Billboard 100.

One of the best parts of Kendrick Lamar’s album were the skits that happened between each song. They were all hilarious stories about his life in Compton. Compton was one of the recurring themes in Good Kid Maad City. You really get a good grasp of where Kendrick came from and what his life was really like; from the pain and struggle to the success and happiness. In his song “Back Boy Fly” he shows his emotions and talks about people in his life he used to be envious of. He says “I used to be jealous of Aaron Afflalo, I used to be jealous of Aaron Afflalo, He was the one to follow, He was the only leader foreseeing brighter tomorrows, He would live in the gym, We was living in sorrow, Total envy of him, He made a dream become a reality, Actually making it possible to swim” he tells a tale of his jealousy of Aaron Afflalo who was a childhood friend who made it to the NBA.

Kendrick also showed his dark side on this album with songs like “mA.A.d City” and “good kid”. Telling stories of his time as a gang banger in Compton, in “mA.A.d City” he says “If Pirus and Crips all got along, They’d probably gun me down by the end of this song, I was like the whole city go against me, Every time I’m in the street I hear (gunshot sound)” While in “good kid” he raps about an encounter with gangsters after church “No better picture to paint than me walking from bible study, And called his homies because he had said he noticed my face from a function that took place, They was wondering if I bang, Step on my neck and get blood on your Nike checks, I don’t mind because one day you respect, The good kid, m.A.A.d. city.” While most rap albums usually underwhelm in some aspects “good kid, m.A.A.d city” was an all-around brilliant performance. If you buy it on iTunes you even get a bonus cd with 3 extra songs. This album is not just about rap and that is what makes it genuine. If you listen to it from start to finish Kendrick Lamar paints a clear picture of his life and that has to be respected.

These days a lot of rappers take the easy way out by making club records and making music with no substance, but Kendrick took the high road with this album. The next question is can he do it again? Because one thing’s for sure all rappers have a shelf life and if you’re not consistent you can easily lose the public’s attention.
On March 21st, QCC’s very own art gallery unveiled a new exhibit featuring some of the best work from the students of the Art and Design Department. This tradition of displaying the exceptional work of Queensborough’s Art students showcases various different pieces in various different formats, ranging from digital art to oil canvases and charcoal. Featuring 35 different pieces, visitors will be treated to a variety of exceptionally well done portraits, abstract art, photographs, and more, all of which have been created through a combination of artistic experience, and knowledge gained from time spent at Queensborough. The gallery does an excellent job of blending in both traditional pieces of art such as the timeless portrait, along with newer forms such as digital art and modern age photography. Merging these two forms together, the students on display do an excellent job of presenting the changing values of the times we now live in. In a time where doing things digitally has gained popularity, these students reflect that change in the style of their artwork, while simultaneously representing traditional forms and themes of artwork.

Many of the oil paintings on display are incredibly detailed and vivid, using various different types of colors and styles to present their picture. The portraits done by Tracy Leung and Hyun Sook stand out, capturing the emotion and beauty of their subjects. Hyun Sook’s subject looks to the side with a stern serious expression, while Tracy’s looks forward, eyes bright and with a smile on her face. JhonZhagnay’s oil painting piece is full of vivid colors and scenery, creating a unique and impressive work of art. A smiling skull draped in red, surrounded by bright imagery, Zhagnay’s artwork shows a unique, colorful look at an otherwise grim subject.

Also featured on scene are many well taken photographs by various students. Naomi Paul’s photograph of two small children in a cramped hallway displays the innocence and curiosity of childhood. The two girls look into the camera, their body language displaying that both of them are shy, yet excited to appear on camera. Eddy Tse’s photograph of a small child standing alone in an alleyway gives a sense of loneliness and insignificance. Everything in the photo is much larger than the child, giving the sense of confusion and wonderment that one may experience as an adolescent. Leo Correa’s photographs of a ballerina during and after her performance showcases the contrasting moods of both pictures, with the subject concentrating during her routine, limbs spread out, and then seen in the next picture contemplating the performance she just did, with her flats off. Melissa Olah’s photograph of a calm and serene stream in nature showcases a peaceful, quiet scene that is almost never seen in the hustle and bustle lifestyle of New York City. Contrasting what
Shows Off Student Artwork

we are used to, one can almost feel the environment on display just by looking at the image.

More unconventional pieces on display include Tanya Kalaitzidis’ digital piece of a girl with most of her face cracked and destroyed, showing her skull. The bones contrasting with what skin there is show what may have once been a beautiful girl, now corrupted and broken. Tanya does an excellent job of conveying what lies beneath a person’s exterior, and that everything is not always at it seems. Hwa Lim Kang’s short Japanese manga styled comic is a surprising, yet refreshing alternative to a traditional student art show, telling the story of a birthday surprise gone wrong. PoroushaChomeili’s digital piece of a fake horror movie poster is done so convincingly and with such expertise, one might think it was for an actual movie. The child featured in the poster is sinister looking, giving off a creepy vibe that simulates a Hollywood horror movie poster accurately. With all this and more, QCC’s student exhibition is a must see for any fan of art experienced or new to see a new generation of creative ability. It is a blend of creative talent and experience that is both memorable and enjoyable. The talent on display from such a young crowd of artists shows even more promising things to come from the future of Queensborough’s Art and Design Department.

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 Spring 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!
Identity Thief

Released February 8, 2013, Identity Thief is a crime and comedy motion picture directed by Seth Gordon, the same director of Horrible Bosses. The cast includes Melissa McCarthy, Jason Bateman and Amanda Peet. Bateman stars as Sandy Bigelow Patterson, an average Joe accountant who just got a big promotion at work and lives in Denver, Colorado with his wife and two children. McCarthy plays Diana, a talkative, big curly haired hustler who steals people’s identities for a living. One day, in the middle of work, Sandy receives a phone call from Diana claiming that someone is attempting to steal his identity and offers him to join an identity protection service. She starts to ask him many personal questions in order to steal his identity herself, taking advantage of his unisex name. Anxious Sandy answers all her questions and hangs up thinking all is well. Boy, was he wrong.

Ultimately, the police arrest him and he realizes who has stolen his identity. The police pull up a photo and the detective tells Sandy that as long as she’s in Florida, they can’t do anything about it. His bosses find out about his arrest as well as other issues, such as a purchase of drugs under his name, etc. He decides to go to Florida and bring her back to Denver in order to save his job and clear his name with the police who are now on his back. After this act, the movie becomes a predictable, mildly amusing road trip comedy.

I’ve been a fan of Melissa McCarthy ever since her Gilmore Girls days. She’s a fearless and often hilarious actress. Two years ago she received much notable attention for her role in Bridesmaids and continues to portray comical and entertaining characters which add to her success. Her character in this movie is very bubbly, and it is represented through her metallic makeup and colorful outfits. Diana and Sandy are certainly another case of opposite people that attract. He’s an honest member of society; she’s a wanted thief. Regardless, Diana becomes resourceful to Sandy throughout the whole movie, thus gaining respect and appreciation from him at the end.

A great moment in the movie is when Sandy finally confronts Diana in Florida. She gets scared and tries to physically fight him off by punching him so hard and eventually slamming her car against his. This was hilarious and unexpected coming from such a "charming and feminine" girl we saw in the movie prior to this scene. She then escapes to her cramped and over-the-top apartment, and he follows her there. Inside her apartment, Sandy realizes that she’s been stealing people’s identities for a while, purchasing enough things to satisfy a third world country! Eventually, she agrees to go back to Denver with him. On the way to the airport, Diana reminds Sandy what an issue it would be if they both show up to the airport with the same ID reading Sandy Bigelow Patterson. So, they end up driving all the way to Denver and get to know each other while facing many entertaining scenarios on the way. For example, an act I really enjoyed was when Sandy gets bit by a snake and Diana saves him by accidentally knocking him unconscious while trying to beat the snake. The next morning, Sandy wakes up at a bus station and finds out that Diana carried him half a mile until a truck eventually passed by them on the highway and drove them into the bus station. This certainly helped develop a friendship between the two, who hated each other before this act.

They finally get back to Denver and Sandy has a change of heart. Having formed a great bond between them, he ultimately decides not give Diana in to the police. He goes into work prepared to quit, and sees Diana there. She confronts the police on her own and was taken away to jail.

All in all, Identity Thief is a pretty fun comedy to watch. It has its good and bad moments, but ultimately has you smiling at the end of it. I’ll admit that Melissa McCarthy is probably the best part of this movie. Jason’s character is pretty much a square; a guy who plays by the rules of society and has no edge. I thought it was so predictable for Jason Bateman to portray such a character and this was a disappointment for me. He seems to always play the mild-mannered, good guy that ends up getting screwed and his roles in Horrible Bosses, and Arrested Development prove this point. McCarthy’s raunchy character brings life to the movie even when moments become predictable and dull. While it’s certainly not an Oscar rated movie, it may just be a breath of fresh air to all the serious movies that have been taking over the cinema.
College Discovery Club

IS CONDUCTING A

MEDICAL SUPPLIES DRIVE

In affiliation with Operation Dreamcatchers we are collecting these various medical supplies
(but not limited to):

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<th>Item</th>
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<th>Antibacterial Soap</th>
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Begins Friday, March 1st, 2013 until May 9th, 2013

DROP OFF LOCATIONS: MC-02, LB-412, LB-440, S-332, M-326,
The Newman Catholic Center (Cloverdale Blvd across from Gate 2)

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QCC ID REQUIRED
Intramurals a Hit!

BY ARIEL GOMEZ

Being a part of a team is something most people have done. It's a great way to meet people and stay active, but as the age goes up so does the competition. Along with that is also a much larger amount of time needed to dedicate to the sport, and some students just don't want to balance that with school work. Intramurals is a way for students to play on a team without the stress of a varsity team, and everyone can play.

CUNYAC (City University of New York Athletic Conference) launched a CUNY-wide intramural program for seven recreational sports last fall, handball, chess, table tennis, co-ed indoor soccer, a 5K health run, co-ed volleyball, and co-ed basketball. This program proved to be a huge success attracting participation from students everywhere. “More and more, our students here at the City University reflect the more traditional type of student, looking for opportunities on-campus and ways to connect with peers,” said Zak Ivkovic, Executive Director of the CUNY Athletic Conference. The program was possible thanks to generous funding and support of the Municipal Credit Union, who is also responsible for the reward the school with the most participation receives.

“I played in the handball tournament last year, and I was shocked to see how many people there were. I was expecting it to just be a quick few games.” Tony Zagoras

The fall season was already a success and CUNYAC is expecting an even bigger turnout in the spring season. The spring season consists of Chess, Co-Ed Indoor Soccer, a 10K & 5K Health Run, Co-Ed Volleyball and Co-Ed Basketball. “A couple friends and I decided to start up a team and play this year, and it was a good time. We know a couple other kids who played and we just trash talk whenever we play in an open gym. It's a lot of fun and I can only imagine how many other teams are competing to be in the tournament.” Edward Braddy

And why wouldn't they be with a cash prize for the school with the most participation.

CUNYAC will award the school with the most participation throughout the year with a $2500 prize towards that school’s intramurals program the following year. In addition to this Vice Chancellor Frank Sanchez and the CUNY Office for Student Affairs will match the offer, totaling $5,000 for the school with most participation. Any school would love some extra cash so it’s vital that students know about these programs and events going on.

These are the remaining days from 6:00-8:45pm for their respective sports for the spring season. Handball singles tournament will be on Friday May 3 in room 301, and the women’s basketball tournament April the 8, 12, and 15. For the finals tournament information to support your fellow classmates, go to cunyaletics.com. Along with the season there is an intramurals program during Wednesday club hours in the gym for various sports. You can find these out at the Robert F Kennedy building right next to the athletic department’s office.
On March 16th the Q.C.C. track and field team competed in the Queensborough Relays hosted in Queensborough Community College where they competed against Hunter College, Medgar Evans, Lehman, Kingsborough C.C., Bronx C.C., Middlesex, Northern Essex, and Q.C.C. Alumni for dominance in track and field where they had to overcome snow that would go on and off in the beginning but just wouldn't stop towards the end. Q.C.C. did ok in the event.Q.C.C. fared well in track. In the Men's 1,000 Meter Run: Kevin Lopez finished in first place and third place Joe Zempoaltecca. In the Women's 1,000 Meter Run: Diana Chumby finished in third place. What was impressive was that it was during the time where the snow was starting to pick up and wouldn't stop. In the Women's 4x200 Meter Relay: the Tigers finished in second place. Another team event was the Men's 4x100 Meter Relay: the Q.C.C. alumni track team finished in first place. Medgar Evers came in second and Middlesex finished third. In the Men's 4x200 Meter Relay: the Tigers alumni track team was able to finish in first place while Q.C.C. finished in third place. The Men's 4x800 Meter Relay: the Tigers finished in first place where they had little difficulty while Middlesex C.C. and Hunter finished for second and third place. The Men's 1,600 Sprint Medley: wasn't much of a race since Q.C.C. competed in the eventunopposed. The track team looked like they weren't bothered too much by the unfriendly weather. They seemed to do their job without losing focus. In the field events the only successes Q.C.C. had was in the Women's Javelin Throw: where LiaBriffa finish in third place behind AlemdaSpahija (Hunter College) and Eva Raza (Lehman College). LiaBriffa also had a finish in a three-way tie for third place in the Women's High Jump. Medgar Evers College had terrific day in the field events. They came in first in Women's High Jump and Men's High Jump. A third place in Women's Shot Put, as well as a second and third place in Men's Shot Put. Lastly they swept the men's javelin throw. When Alex Roach was asked about his performance in the men's javelin throw he said “I was disappointed about my final results but I did liked some of my throws in the competition that I feel can build on in the next competition.” He finished in fifth place. So the Q.C.C. has something to work on for the next competition.

When Coach Chris Omeltchenko was asked about his team's performance "That even though the weather wasn't good that the team was able to perceiver and do their best on the track. There are things we need to improve on but the fact that they battle was a good thing." The fact that the athletes were able to perform in the cold and snowy day shows how mentally and physically focus they were for the event.

Snow Day: Q.C.C. Track and Field Squad Begin Season

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that lead Q.C.C. to score four more runs in that inning which put any chance for Global Institute of Technology to win out of reach. Starting pitcher Chitranie Sumasar had pitched a good game (4 IP, 2 K, 3 hits, 2 walks, 2 ER) until she was taken out of the game due to excessive coughing. It was so bad that she was sitting on the mound while her teammates were all around trying to figure out the problem. Sumasar’s reason for her uncontrollable coughing was “I was suffering from the flu a few days ago and I’m just getting over it.” It was a low scoring, 3-2 Q.C.C. Then Marisa Miletta came in for relief. Miletta (3 IP, 3 hits, 3 BB, 3 ER) had some trouble in the 5th inning where she allowed the first 3 batters to get on base. That is when Global Institute of Technology was able to score three runs and give themselves a 5-3 lead in the 5th inning.

After that inning Miletta was able to settle down and get out of the inning. Miletta was a different pitcher in the sixth and seventh inning to the point that the Knights could barely get on base.

The Tigers hitting was suffering for a while and the cold, harsh, and windy climate wasn’t making the Tigers offense any better. In the first 5 innings the tigers only hit scored 2 runs with 5 hits. Then in the 6th inning that is when everything started to change. After the first batter struck out; Arys Vargas (4-4, 1 walk, 1 run, 4 hits, and 2 stolen bases) hit one of her four singles of the game. Then after the next batters worked a walk came the hero Soribel Paulino. After the game Paulino explains her thought process during her at bat. “I came in with a positive mind and was confident about my at bat.” She also talked about her strategy “I saw how the pitcher kept throwing the pitch inside, so I shifted away from the plate and waited for her to throw inside again.” When asked if the weather affected her she stated “It didn’t have an effect on my performance, the weather was no problem.” Coach Marchitelo was pleased about his team’s performance. When asked about what he said to his softball team in the sixth inning that got them to make a game winning rally he said “I didn’t have no big moving motivation speech. I just told to remember the fundamentals.” It’s hard to value this early in the season but if the Tigers pitching is as good as it was against Global Institute of Technology and the hitting improves as the season goes on, then we are in for a wonderful softball season.
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