Is banning the right to smoke offensive to our freedom on campus or is the issue about how much freedom we should have? As of August 27, 2012 QCC will go tobacco-free. Although questions are endless from both sides of the story, the answers are available for students who are truly concerned. Many students are asking whether this is the right way to go about the situation. Some are uncertain if we are prepared to enforce such a drastic measure, and some are outraged, but others remain completely neutral to the situation. When asking Student Government President Oluwadamisi Atanda, what he thought of the tobacco-free policy he stated, “Overall the intentions are good, but the timeline is not okay. They should have carried out more awareness campaigns.”

Of course there are those who oppose the policy after viewing it from all sides of the spectrum, such as former non-smoking student Ana Gutierrez who says, “People should have the right to smoke if that’s what they prefer. The new policy is not benefitting all students, only the non-smokers. There should definitely be smoking areas for those who choose to smoke.”

It is important for us to be well aware that we are not the first to have this policy imposed on our school. In an article from www.insidehighered.com, written by an anonymous professor in a university in the Midwest, the professor expressed his opposition not only by writing an article, but also by writing a letter to the university president. His article stated, “In a sense, the outdoor bans seem like a logical extension of 30 years of efforts to reduce tobacco use, given the harmful effects of smoking. The majority of the most elite schools, especially ivy leaguers like Harvard and Princeton, have yet to jump on the bandwagon, however. I can’t help but think that this is because they have more common sense than the rest of us: it’s only a matter of time before this “smoke-free campus” movement gets a student assaulted, raped or killed.” He pointed out a total of six points explaining why this policy may be a bad idea towards students; surprisingly the university president actually agreed with most of the points only to reply by saying “he couldn’t rescind the coming ban because other universities in our state were also implementing similar policies.”

Fortunately, Chancellor Mathew Goldstein prepared a “policy work plan” on January of 2011. The policy work plan includes implementation steps, deadlines and a detailed explanation as to why this policy is necessary for CUNY. The Chancellor wrote a memo to all college presidents stating, “The revised tobacco policy must be implemented university-wide no later than September 4, 2012.” Within the text of the policy work plan it states that the main idea of the tobacco free policy is “to set appropriate standards as an example for universities seeking to protect the health of their students and employees.” The revised tobacco policy work plan is made available to students on the CUNY website, at www.cuny.edu.

Our Health Department has been working on providing a tobacco free example for about six years now by working directly with the Tobacco Bureau of New York City. The Director of Health Services R.N. Isabel Hocevar says, “I support this policy. It’s really about the respect towards others and the environment. You shouldn’t be able to smoke on campus if you can’t smoke in the park or in other public areas.” Chancellor Goldstein based the policy on this idea.

Katherine Mejia, a former student smoker said, “I started smoking because of stress in school as well as at home and I got more intrigued to smoke because my peers were doing it too.” For students such as Katherine, QCC provides many beneficial help factors such as nicotine patches at no cost, counseling on campus, and full information on how to quit if she walks into the health office located in the Medical Arts building, room MC-02. “CUNY has provided professional training for all of our staff members to provide the best attention possible for those whom seek to quit or minimize smoking”, according to R.N. Isabel Hocevar.

Queensborough Community College, along with former schools that form part of CUNY, are joining the fight against tobacco, in the pursuit of a healthier environment for students and faculty members. To view the countdown online you may visit our college home page at, www.qcc.cuny.edu. Now it is only up our QCC students to make a choice. On which side of the spectrum will you reside?
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QUEENSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
PRODUCED BY AND FOR THE STUDENTS OF QUEENSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Single Stop
Just Around the Corner
By Vincent Rosado

Do you need help with your taxes, your financial aid, or just keeping a budget? Well now you can get it. Queensborough Community College has joined with Single Stop USA, a non-profit company created to help make life for students a little easier. Their office, located in our own Library Building room L-420, is full of people that want to make sure that we are able to have access to all the things that we need. They have created a technology called BEN, which is short for Benefits Enrollment Network, which is used to look up a student’s background and figure out if we qualify for any benefits or services. Some of the services they can help you with are help with your taxes, health insurance, food stamps, and more.

The office has many people who can help students on a variety of levels. The best thing about this service is that it’s free, whereas other companies will charge large amounts of money for the help that we can get for free. The office is close so it is easy to get to and your parents are also welcome to take advantage of the services in the office. Advisors are there to help if you need help with saving money or creating a budget or any other financial questions you have. They even have advisors who can help with any legal questions you have or situations you are currently involved in.

The Single Stop office also offers a club called Money/Legal Eagle club which is an opportunity to receive help throughout the semester through workshops. These workshops can help you keep track of the money that you have and the money that you are spending. They can also help you with learning how to keep a budget so that you will have money left over in your savings.

They have tax refund experts in the offices already waiting to help you. These experts will be able to help you Mondays 10am-5pm, Tuesdays 10am-5pm, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9am-6pm. They are even offering a Saturday to help you which is March 24th from 9am to 5pm. All you have to do is bring your student ID, your social security card and any appropriate tax forms. You can reach them by simply walking into their office at L- or calling them at 718-631-6347.
Dear Friends,

I welcome you into the new semester—spring of 2012, on behalf of all my colleagues in Student Government and myself.

In this Communique issue, I’d like to give particular attention to the freshmen: As you immerse yourselves in our diverse community of goal-orientated individuals and building future game-changers, as you begin to experience our tradition of academic rigor, take part in one of our over forty active student clubs and organizations, elaborated below are few pointers that may come in handy as you commence your journey to success here at QCC.

As an enrolled freshman, you were assigned to a freshman academy related to your declared major and a specific adviser within that academy. This brilliant initiative, championed by President Diane Call is one of tremendous advantage to those who utilize it. Having gotten familiar with many of the coordinators, I can attest to the fact that the goals of the academies are deeply rooted in the desire to make every student overcome college-level challenges. The academy advisers provide wide range of assistance that include academic advisement and registration, transfer-related issues, field trips and a variety of others. Your adviser is able to provide accurate information regarding degree requirements, application for graduation, over-tallies, etc. This unique program, in my opinion, is necessary for a successful transition (or adjustment) into the college environment from the secondary level. Visit http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/academies for more information.

Need a job to help with the bills? QCC has a dedicated office specialized at connecting students with jobs and internships. Located at L429 and L430, the office of Career Services also provides help with resumes, and tool kits for professional skills on how to develop processional documents.

Single Stop office provides tax preparations for free until April 16th. Services of this kind cost about $200 from other providers. Along with free tax preparations, single stop also offers free financial counseling, free benefit screening and free legal assistance. I urge you to take advantage of this incredible opportunity, if applicable. Their office is located in L420.

Lastly, if you do not receive satisfactory responses to your inquiry, or if you’re referred to office after office, and still your inquisition remains yet unresolved. I strongly implore you to visit the Office of Student Affairs, located at L412. Together with the Office of Student Activities located right next door—L417, they connect you to needed resources and provide a host of other useful information about scholarships and campus regulations. The staffs of these offices tend not to let students out, until they’ve tried their hardest to answer the student’s question(s).

Do remember that the month of March is CUNY Voter Awareness Month! In the spirit of patriotism and in fulfillment of our civic duties, I encourage each and every one to register to vote, if you haven’t already done so. Also be reminded of the Albany lobby day happening on March 14th. Together, let’s advocate and lobby Albany against further cuts to CUNY budgets and for passage of favorable legislative bills.

Have a jolly good read!

Best,
K.
Oluwadamilare Atanda

---

Did you know that there is a performer in our midsts?! Right here at Queensborough Community College, we have a remarkable woman by the name of Jennifer Gliere. Jennifer Gliere is a Professor at Queensborough Community College that teaches music history, but she is also a great and talented singer and actress who performs in operas and in plays. She was born into the music/entertainment/performing arts business through a family where everyone had a part in the music industry, including her relative and Russian composer Reinhold Gliere.

Professor Gliere was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, and went to the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York. There she performed in plays such as L’amico Fritz and La rondine at the Eastman Opera Theatre. Jennifer has appeared in oratorios and recitals from the Mid-Atlantic to the Midwest. She has also performed in live festivals and musical events around the country, given master classes to many youth choirs, and appeared in radio studios and on television. Prof. Gliere has also won many awards and honors, including second place for the Sergeit Olga Koussaveitzky Competition, Audience Favorite at the Rochester Oratorio Society Competition and second place for the Great Lakes Regional NATS Competition.

Some of the operas/plays that she was in received amazing reviews. According to “The Democrat and Chronicle” of Rochester, New York, “The most compelling reason to see the play [La Rondine] is the chance to hear the terrific soprano Jennifer Gliere. Gliere proved to be a sensitive artist who knows how to turn a phrase while giving meaning to the text. I heartily recommend Gliere to you.” Regarding Beethoven’s Mass in C, “The Buffalo News” said, “It was clear that soprano Jennifer Gliere has a tone admirably suited for song recitals.” I wanted to find out a little bit more about this performer-singer/actress and I got the opportunity to chat with her one-on-one; here’s what she had to say about her music life:

Jessica (Me): How did you get involved into the music business?

Jennifer: I started through church singing in a choir, and then later on I decided to major in music at college, and at 18 years old in my freshman year of college I was asked if I wanted to do an opera called “The Magic Flute” by Mozart. After that, I decided to do singing as a career professionally.

Jessica: What inspires or motivates you to act on stage in plays and operas?

Jennifer: Well, my mother told me that I was always an actress. I have the desire to sing and share music with other people. The real cool thing that I liked about acting was how I
College Discovery Program Helps Student Success

By ASHLY QUIZHI

New to college? Is this your first semester in Queensborough Community College? Joining the College Discovery Program can help your success in your academic years in college. This program provides an advisor that you will be able to meet every month to help you. You will also be able to get tutoring on any subject you need help in and possibly financial aid help every semester.

If you don’t have a high income tax, you may qualify to be in this program. In order to be in this program you must contact the Discovery Program advisor your first semester of entering the college. As a student in this program, I get a lot of help in my academic work. I feel very fortunate that I’m getting help to make my college years easier and I have been able to make great friends that to this day always hang out with me to have fun. You get so many benefits, that I think many students should take a chance to see if it is for them.

I was privileged enough to interview one of the counselors of the College Discovery Program, Katawicia Desruisseaux. I asked her a few questions based on the program and how it worked.

Ashly: What benefits does the College Discovery Program give a student?
Ms. Desruisseaux: It basically provides resources, such as tutoring for every subject and it’s free. Also, there’s one-on-one with a counselor. We provide stipends for students for books at around $300-350 dollars, based on the student’s income.

Ashly: What do you believe is the main purpose of the program?
Ms. Desruisseaux: To help students succeed in college despite their [below average] high school GPA.

Ashly: When can students apply for the program? How?
Ms. Desruisseaux: Students can apply as incoming freshman during the fall semester on the CUNY application. They must check a box that says CUNY/SEEK. Students with low incomes can also apply.

Ashly: What is the income required to qualify?
Ms. Desruisseaux: Here is a helpful chart.

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<th>Household Size</th>
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<td>5</td>
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For more information on this program you can contact 718-631-6210. Offices are located, in L-440.

This year an amazing 858 transfer students finished college at Monroe. Maybe it’s time you made the move.

May it’s all the exciting in-demand degrees. Or the professors who actually work in their fields. Perhaps it’s the fully-furnished dorms equipped with WiFi, a computer lounge and fitness center. Or the classes that meet around your schedule. Whatever the reason, hundreds of motivated, career-minded students are taking their credits and turning them into marketable Associate or Bachelor’s Degrees at Monroe College. Transferring to Monroe means:

• Generous transfer credit policy
• Additional credit for military or academy training
• Exciting degrees, in demand right now
• Professors who also work in their fields
• Unique Bronx & New Rochelle campuses
• Fully furnished apartment-like dorms
• Online & on campus class options
• Day, evening & weekend classes

OPEN HOUSE - Tuesday, March 20th & Tuesday, April 10th, 9am - 7pm
Call 1.800.55.MONROE to make a reservation
Bronx, New Rochelle and Online campuses

Associate, Bachelor’s, Master’s and Online Degree Programs:

Accounting
Baking & Pastry
Business Management
Criminal Justice
Culinary Arts
Early Childhood Education
Health Services Administration
Hospitality Management
Information Technology
Medical Administration
Medical Assisting
Pharmacy Technician
Public Health
Registered Nurse
MBA in Business Management
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Annual Job Fair at Queensborough Community College

BY MELISSA DupLAN

Many students may not realize that the job fair at Queensborough Community College will soon be here on Wednesday, March 21st, 2012. For students that may be unemployed or seeking a new job, the job fair begins at 12 P.M. to 3 P.M in the Student Union Lounge.

There will be various companies and organizations at the job fair to talk to students, one-on-one about jobs, careers, and internships. Some of the companies and organizations that will at the job fair will be Cablevision, Enterprise Holdings, Prudential, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, Target, Queens Public Television, nonprofit companies, and more. There will also be internships for students through Queens Public Television, Queens Courier, and other companies.

According to Constance Peluso, “To be ready for the job fair, it is best to come early and dress professionally. Bring a resume to and the employers at the job fair will help you and look over your resumes.” The dress code is to dress well, neat, and professional. No sneakers, no jeans, and no club attire are allowed.

There will also be people to help students with interviewing skills, creating resumes, professional development, increasing exposure to employment, and helping with job training. It will be an interesting experience for students who are looking for jobs, careers, internships or even students who are interested in being entrepreneurs. All students at QCC who are majoring in all types of studies can register and attend this job fair.

If students need to register for the job fair they can visit the website http://www.collegecentral.com/queensborough/student.cfm, for more information. You can also contact the Office of Career Services, located in room L-429 or call (718) 631-6297.

An Underrepresented Student Body

BY BRITTANY FRANKLIN AND JAMIYA SINCLAIR

You’re running late for your early class. There’s a long line for the bus and everyone is eager to get on and get a seat. Just when you thought all the passengers have boarded the bus driver lowers his ramp for someone in a wheelchair to board. Maybe you’ve rolled your eyes or whispered profanities under your breath and maybe you haven’t. But have you ever wondered what that disabled person must go through every day? Our society is one in which individuals seem to disregard experiences that don’t relate to them. “Putting yourself in another person’s shoes” is a skill that requires patience and perspective. Creating an integrated society requires mutual understanding and respect, a feat that QCC has just about conquered.

Here at QCC we have a diverse student body. The term diversity is used here to reference not only race or culture but students with disabilities as well. Our campus offers these students numerous services that allow them to get the most out of their education. Liberal Arts major Markus Griffith, 22, is one of the many students registered with Services for Students with Disabilities, S-132. Markus was diagnosed with speech impediment, hearing impairment and a general learning disability in late elementary. At that time, advancements in audio technology were daft compared to today. The public school system offered the hearing impaired FM Units which, in lay terms, were big bulky receivers that had to be placed on your desk while the teacher wore a microphone around his/her neck to amplify the sound of their voice.

Markus says that the self-consciousness made it difficult to adapt but after a while “he felt no different from anybody else.” The transition from his middle school, which was located in Manhattan, to a Queens public intermediates school was a tough one. “I’m not gonna lie, it had its bumps. They called me ‘Shorty’,” he says as he explains the immaturity of pubescent pre-teens. In lieu of the adversity Markus began to encounter a self-revelation in middle school that often occurs as we reach young adulthood, seeing that, “After a while I realized that you can’t be soft all the time and eventually I really started to find myself.” He refused to let his disability handicap is ability to succeed and faced that, “I had to come to terms with my own disability. If it people didn’t have anything nice to say, then who cares.” This insight fostered a positive growth in his self-esteem. Markus is now the vice president of the S.O.D.A. Club, which “is an acronym for Student Organization for Disability Awareness. We are not a club about soda [the beverage] he states matter-of-factly. Everyone is welcome to join their Facebook group. The club meets during QCC club hours in room M-413. Markus is also pursuing a career in broadcast journalism, again, striving to overcome any obstacles he may encounter in this field despite his mild stutter.

There are many misconceptions and stereotypes of this minority that are perpetuated by society. Not until recently has mainstream media chose to incorporate characters with disabilities into their storyline. Shows like “Glee” and “Switched at Birth” have phenomenal performances with informative references to lives and social conflicts of disabled youth. The World Health Organization (WHO) has a full site dedicated to spreading disability awareness with the main goal of eradicating stereotypical classifications of the disabled minority. “Disability is an umbrella term, covering impairments, activity limitations, and participation difficulty encountered by an individual in executing a task or action; while a participation restriction is a problem experienced by an individual in involvement in life situation. Thus, disability is a complex phenomenon, reflecting an interaction between features of a person’s body and features of the society in which he or she lives” (WHO.org). We are all disabled at one point in our lifetime be it emotionally, physically or mentally. Unfortunately, for some of us it is permanent and life altering, but with a little help, we can manage our limitations together.

Are you poet?

Do you want to be published poet?

April is National Poetry Month and we are looking for poets for our next issue who make the page come alive with vivid language. Submit no more than three pages of poetry, as a MS Word attachment, to qcccommunique@gmail.com.

Put “POETRY” in the subject line of your email and don’t forget to write your full name. We look forward to reading your work!
Clubs and Societies at QCC

BY IRLANDA ZEIA

If you want to learn about chemistry or architecture, bask in culture, or learn about your future profession, Queensborough Community College provides students with many opportunities to do anything we put our minds to. QCC provides students with many choices of clubs and societies to join and take part in. The diversity and uniqueness in the clubs helps students flourish and develop skills that express their abilities and passions.

Speaking to club members also gives you an insight on the experience. Cassandra Turile is in the African Student Union and she expressed to me how they have come to create events where they dance, sing act and model. She stated, “Clubs are a great way to build friendships and together create something powerful.” She immediately encouraged me to join the club and guaranteed I’d have a great experience. She spoke about all the events they are putting together and also invited me to a performance they will be having in the Student Union. I asked her how students can join these clubs if they are interested and she responded, “Easy, you can join whenever by just contacting the Office of Student Activities and coming to speak to the club members, it’s that simple.”

If students are interested in creating their own club they must also contact the Office of Student Activities, take one new idea, add ten interested students, write a constitution and find a friendly faculty member or administrator that can be the faculty advisor. This is the process in starting a new project as a team and creating a club in campus. The school website also provides you with some background information on all these clubs and where they are located during club hours.

All clubs and their objectives are posted on the college website, where it gives you a brief description of their purpose. QCC currently has thirty-five types of clubs, all different in their own way. Here is a list of the clubs offered: African Student Union, Architecture Club, Asian Society, Bangladesh Student Association, Business Society, Chemistry Club, Chi Alpha Christian, College Discovery Club, CSTEP Club, Drama Society, ECET Programming Club, Foreign Language Society, Future Teachers Society, Haitian Club, Hillel Club, IEE Club, International Business Club, International Student Club, Korean Club, MALES Club, Math Club, Mock Trial Association, Money/Legal Eagle Club, Music Society, Muslim Student Association, Newman Club, Queensborough Bridge Research Club, Queensborough Student Veterans Association, Robotics Club, S.I.D (Socially Interactive Democratic network), S.O.U.L (Sexual Orientation Unity League), S.T.E.M. Research Club, Student’s Health Club, Student Nurses Association, and the Trinbago Society.

For more information, go to http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/studentActivities/clubs/index.html.

QCC’S Service Learning is Fun!

BY SHANICE PUNNETT

Are you tired of long lectures and boring professors? Would you like to give back to the community while learning skills outside of the classroom? Then service-learning is for you!!

Service learning is a method of teaching and learning which consists of community service and classroom instruction, placing emphasis on “critical reflective thinking as well as personal and civic responsibility.” QCC began practicing service learning five years ago but it officially became part of the college during the 2010-2011 academic year.

This department is pleased to present its two upcoming events ‘QCC Day at the Farm’ and ‘QCC Earth Day 2012.’ The QCC community is welcome to come “learn about and celebrate gardening, good nutrition, environmental stewardship and service-learning” at ‘QCC Day at the Farm’ on Saturday March 31st from 10:00am – 2:00pm at the Queens County Farm Museum. Farm experts will explain composting, gardening, etc. and will lead tours of the fields, greenhouses and farm animals. The day includes lunch and activities for all ages. If you’re interested in attending, please RSVP to: servicelearning@qcc.cuny.edu

All are welcome to Earth Day 2012 at QCC on Wednesday April 25th from 1-3 pm in the Student Union (upper level.) This event is co-sponsored by the offices of Service Learning and Student Activities. Here QCC club members and service-learning students will make presentations related to environmental issues. I encourage you to come out and support this event. The information can be very beneficial to us as a college community.

Happy St. Patricks Day!
Global Student Uprising For Free Education

BY SERGIO BEJARANO

What’s in store for our future? In an economy like today not even the best of politicians can promise us a bright future, even with our current investment in higher education. Unemployment has gone up and is expected to keep rising due to mechanization. The financial crisis has taken its toll mostly on the poor and working class people. Tuition and college expenses continue to rise in colleges all over the world. Attending college is getting close to impossible for people at the bottom of the pyramid. This radical, capitalist corporate globalization has created stratification and inequality worldwide. This system is leaving many students without the opportunities to continue or even attend college. As global austerity continues, governments all over the world are cutting social programs. New generations of students are beginning to take on these corrupt governments. Students all over the world are uniting in solidarity through online social networking and organized websites. This has created unified movements in a struggle to take back education for all. The struggle for human rights is the struggle for good, quality education without discrimination. In NYC, working class students have organized and mobilized. Involved in these student uprisings is Students United for a Free CUNY (SUFC). The movement was founded in June 2011. It’s important to remember, “The working class in NYC set up the free academy in 1847 through a popular referendum. It (CUNY) remained free even through the great depression, World War II and much of the Cold War. The student body was predominantly white,” according to the SUFC website. Students of color also fight for the right to be educated free and indiscriminately. Students United for a Free CUNY have been in numerous demonstrations, like the Baruch protest, which resulted in a few arrests. Students expressed that police used excessive force to deny CUNY students entrance to a CUNY campus. In a recent rally, the movement called The State of the Students Address, New York City Councilman Charles Barron supported the movement. He was the only elected official to sign their declaration of demands for a free CUNY. I interviewed one of the organizers for SUFC and asked the student what key roles the movement has played in the struggle: “SUFC has played a key role in fighting tuition hikes and...racism,” says Domingo Estevez a student organizer for SUFC. Estevez also stated that for now, their short-term goal is to spread awareness of the struggle amongst students but their long-term goal is “a free higher quality education for the working class people.”

CUNY isn’t the only student uprising gaining momentum, more students have unified and organized around the world. The demand for free or even affordable education is the similar goal that connects SUFC to movements all over the world. In the country of Chile, students have been protesting since May of 2011, about nine months now. The battle for education has become an outcry for human rights all over the world. It is important to recognize students struggling in other parts of the world. Seeing ourselves separate from the world community is blinding us from the bigger picture. Colleges that where once public are now being privatized in many countries like Colombia, Chile, Greece and many more around the world. To learn more about other student movements, visit the realnewsnetwork.com. This global student uprising has been ignored by most mainstream media. Furthermore, the people responsible for the financial crisis are not being held responsible. Something is very wrong when the majority of the youth in the world must fight against oppression so that they may have the opportunity to educate themselves.

Meet Your Student: Rashard Bobbitt

BY YU CHENG

Welcome to this month’s section of Meet Your Student. Our feature profile for March is Rashard Bobbitt. Rashard is a Liberal Arts student with an emphasis on social work. He has only been in QCC for a few months (transferred from BMCC) and somehow, we managed to cross paths in a previous music course. This is where he first introduced himself as a striving music producer. Read the set of interview questions below for more details on what he does.

How did you get interested in music?
RB: I first took interest in music when I turned 8 years old. The inspiration really drove...
Dear “Love Gurus,”

College life is extremely busy! I work full-time and I go to school part-time at night. On the days I have a little time to myself, I’m too exhausted to date. How can I manage to date with so much on my plate? Any ideas?

Signed, Too busy, too tired

Dear “Too busy, too tired,”

Take a deep breath! It is completely understandable that your mind is extremely wrapped up with the many different demands of life. However, you have to try and make time for love. Actually, it’s one of life’s many demands as well. Firstly, try to find an activity outside of school and work that you are interested in. This will give you the opportunity to socialize and meet individuals with similar interests. Secondly, for people like you who are short on time, I would suggest a dating site. A lot of them do most of the work for you and pair you up with possible mates based on common interests, goals, beliefs, and dreams. If you’re against the idea of online dating, then I advise you to try and find an hour or two that you can dedicate to creating a lasting relationship. You don’t have to date weekly, and you certainly don’t have to date daily. Set a date on your calendar and promise yourself that on that day, you will spare a few hours to go out to dinner. Remember, love will appear when you least expect it, so don’t work too hard trying to look for it.

Dear “Love Gurus,”

Is it really that crucial to call your girlfriend every day? I find it to be excessive and unnecessary. How do I create a balance between calling too much and not calling enough?

Signed, Concerned boyfriend

Dear “Concerned boyfriend,”

It’s no secret that girls love to talk. As a girl, when someone makes the effort to call me and communicate with me, it shows that he/she cares. The amount of times you need to call her is a different story. You both have to agree on the amount of times you will speak on the phone and how long each conversation is going to last. If your girlfriend wants to talk to you for an hour a day but you only want to talk for 20 minutes, then you are obviously not on the same page. It’s all about communication. I’m sure you’re sick of hearing that, but it’s true. Otherwise, you really need to find someone who is on the same wavelength as you. There are plenty of girls out there who enjoy their space and don’t want to talk for too long. But then, there’s the rest of us, and probably, the majority of us. Girls, by nature, talk more than guys. So in the end, you’ll probably have to make some kind of compromise with her. Part of being in a healthy relationship is making sacrifices to please one another. Just remember the two C’s that exist in all successful relationships, communication and compromise.

If any of you need any relationship advice and have questions that you would like us to respond to, please send them to qcccommunique@gmail.com. Make sure to specify that your question is for the advice column by writing “Ask the Love Gurus” in the subject line. You can always ask these questions anonymously. Thank you very much for your cooperation! We look forward to hearing from you!
As students, commuting is part of our daily routine. How many times have we seen rats on platforms, overflowing garbage cans, and peeling paint? The Straphangers Campaign, a New York City-based transit interest group, issued their first ever “State of the Station Platforms” survey. This survey questioned people’s opinions on public transportation and its aesthetics. The survey pertains to 28% of all subway stations and was based on twelve subway platform conditions.

Questions ranged from the absence of garbage cans, overflowing garbage cans, large garbage bags, to the presence of rats, graffiti, bad lighting, handrails and staircase conditions, exposed writing, peeling paint, water damage, floor cracks, and missing tiles. These conditions were ranged from “the good, the bad, and the ugly.” Among the “good” it was found that 100% of station platforms had garbage cans, 0% of the cans were overflowing, and only 6% of the time were there large bags on the platforms. The “bad” consisted of 11% of the public witnessing rats at the station, 15% observing broken/damaged staircases, handrails, and missing tiles, 20% of all platforms having graffiti on walls, 28% having some writing on walls, and 33% of observers witnessed floor cracks. And lastly, the ugly consisted of 50% of the public witnessing broken light fixtures, 53% witnessing water damage, and 79% observing peeling paint.

MTA chairman Joseph Lhota has stated that he would like to take action against the peeling paint conditions. In comparison to the MTA New York City transit finding that 27% of the stations had lighting and graffiti conditions during the beginning of 2011, the Straphangers Campaign found that by mid-2011 only 20% of the stations had graffiti problems. This decrease in percentage shows improvements in certain areas of our mass transit. The Straphangers Campaign will issue another survey during the spring on the announcements and communication of the NYC transit.

Learn more about UC. Contact us today.
It is widely understood that the student vote figured prominently in the last presidential election, so students should utilize their right to vote in the upcoming one. QCC students can register to vote through March 30, 2012, for the upcoming primary elections that will be held on April 24, 2012. Registration forms can be obtained on the lower level of the Student Union. For more information, access http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/studentActivities/cuny-votes.html.

These are a few of the candidates participating in the primary election and their stances on education:

**DEMOCRATS**

**President Barack Obama:** (from the January 2012 State of the Union, in reference to repealing the drop-out option in high schools) “Over the next 10 years, nearly half of all new jobs will require a level of education beyond a high school degree. Which means, obviously, first of all, you can’t drop out of TechBoston. That’s not allowed. All right? You can’t even think about dropping out. But, can’t even think about it. But even after you graduate, you’re going to need some additional education. And I know that TechBoston is doing an outstanding job of making sure that every student is prepared to go to college.

Unfortunately, the reality is too many students are not prepared across our country. Too many leave school without the skills they need to get a job that pays…That’s not acceptable.”

Randall Terry: His main platform is on abortion and “the genocide Obama promotes in America and around the world [in the form of abortion].”

**REPUBLICANS:**

**Newt Gingrich:** (From a Feb. 22nd Arizona debate) “I think you need very profound reform of education at the state level. You need to dramatically shrink the federal Department of Education, get rid of virtually all of its regulations. And the truth is, I believe we’d be far better off if most states adopted a program of the equivalent of Pell Grants for K-through-12, so that parents could choose where their child went to school, whether it was public, or private, or home-schooling, and parents could be involved.”

**Mitt Romney:** (From a Feb. 22nd Arizona debate) “. . . education has to be held at the local and state level, not at the federal level. We need get the federal government out of education. And secondly, all the talk about we need smaller classroom size, look that’s promoted by the teachers unions to hire more teachers. We looked at what drives good education in our state, what we found is the best thing for education is great teachers, hire the very best and brightest to be teachers, pay them properly, make sure that you have school choice, test your kids to see if they are meeting the standards that need to be met, and make sure that you put the parents in charge. And as president I will stand up to the National Teachers Unions . . .”

For more information on many other candidates, go to http://2012.presidential-candidates.org/.

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**Budget Increases for CUNY Community Colleges: A Case of Too Little, Too Late?**

By Johanna Giloin

In the aftermath of massive faculty and student protests across the city and state, Governor Cuomo, on January 17, 2012, proposed a budget, which for the first time in three years, would increase funding for CUNY rather than slash it. While the Governor’s increased funding will benefit the city’s eleven senior colleges, the seven community colleges will be left in the lurch. Barbara Bowen, President, PSC-CUNY, while commending the action the Governor has taken to increase spending on higher education still recognizes that his proposal does little to help CUNY’s Community Colleges. In response to the Governor’s budget proposal for 2013 she stated:

“The City University of New York is the University of the 99%. A preliminary examination of the Governor’s proposed budget for CUNY suggests that the Budget comes close to the amount CUNY has requested for CUNY senior colleges. If that proves true, PSC will be heartened to see that the Governor has begun to stabilize funding for CUNY. This critical step, however, does not reverse the damage done by the last three years of austerity budgets, which cut $300 million from CUNY. Any serious plan to create jobs and spur the economy must reinvest public dollars – not tuition hikes – in CUNY. CUNY’s over-crowded, under-resourced community colleges desperately need reinvestment of funds.”

New York Students Rising, a network of students throughout New York State dedicated to the welfare of public education, was, on the other hand disappointed with the Governor’s 2013 increase in higher education funding. The network asserted that the financial projection in spending was simply a case of too little, too late, a superficial ploy that only served to deceive the public into thinking that the previous years of drastic cuts to education could be cured simply with a bandage. Disappointed with the Governor’s proposal, New York Students Rising stated:

“Governor Cuomo’s Executive Budget Proposal fails to address the longstanding problems in the SUNY and CUNY systems. Students don’t need an expansion of gimmicks like NYSUNY2020 which only benefit a small fraction of students— they need state investment and a real commitment from the Governor. Years of deep and painful budget cuts cannot be erased by minor budgetary increases or partial support. What New York’s Higher Education System needs is a full restoration of funding for both SUNY and CUNY and a commitment to maintain such funding levels – not a Governor who views our Universities and Colleges as commodities.”

Attention was also drawn to the fact that Mayor Bloomberg, bidding for a third term in office, had initially promised to make CUNY’s community colleges a top priority. During his campaign for reelection, the Mayor was critical of the city’s community colleges served as a “Gateway to the Middle Class” by providing its students with the skills and training to compete on the job market. During his campaign for reelection to a third term in office, Mayor Bloomberg stated:

“Community colleges really do have the power to help more Americans get through this recession and come out with better skills, ready to build new careers in good paying jobs.

Investing in those who want to invest in their own education and careers is one of the single best ways to promote economic growth and help most New Yorkers earn good paying jobs and improve their financial security.”

The fact that the Mayor, after reelection, discarded his initial proposal to invest more in the city’s community colleges, replacing it instead with drastic cuts to higher education, was justified at that time by Jessica Scaparotti, a spokesperson for the Mayor, when she claimed, “The city has had to make some hard budget decisions for the coming fiscal year and we’re asking everyone to do more with less.”

Others, however, such as PSC Vice President Steve London, feel that the Mayor’s decision not only severely compromised CUNY’s seven community colleges, but was simply bad business policy as well. London stated, “Cutting public higher education when enrollment is growing undermines New York’s economic future. In the 21st century, it is just common sense that we need to invest in working people’s education, so that they can contribute more to the economy and to society.”

It seems that those involved in higher education, administration, faculty, and students alike, agree that both the Governor and the Mayor must make a far greater commitment to CUNY’s community colleges. They feel that students who have had to pay more in tuition for less educational resources are really getting a bad bargain. Moreover, they would argue that greater financial investment in our community colleges is not only something that we owe the future generation, but makes good practical business sense as well. “References:


Mayor Bloomberg Pledges $50 Million to University Community Colleges.” CUNY Matters, Fall 2009. Web 14 Feb. 2012.”
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who will foresee the forces of nature?

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ENGINEERING ▪ TECHNOLOGY ▪ MANAGEMENT ▪ AVIATION
Arts and History from Greece to West Africa

BY LAUREN DIAZ

Here at QCC we have two influential cultural centers: The Kupferberg Holocaust Center and QCC Art Gallery have been major staples on campus and in the community. Both places provide an enormous amount of knowledge and culture to the students and community members. They’re open to the public and encourage multiple visits as well as volunteer work.

The Kupferberg Holocaust Center website provides a mission statement that reads, “The Harriet and Kenneth Kupferberg Holocaust Resource Center & Archives is to use the lessons of the Holocaust to educate current and future generations about the ramifications of unbridled prejudice, racism and stereotyping.” It is open Mondays – Thursdays, 9:00 A.M - 5:00 P.M and Fridays from 10:00 A.M - 4:00 P.M. Upcoming exhibitions include “But When We Started Singing: Inspired by the Life and Works of Primo Levi” starting Sunday, March 18th at 1:00 P.M. This exhibit is by reservation only and you can RSVP by calling 718-281-5770. “Lost Voices: Greek Jews and the Holocaust” opens Sunday, March 25th at 1:00 P.M. It’s about how the Holocaust affected the Jews of Greece, which are one of the oldest Jewish communities going back as far as the middle of the first century.

The QCC Art Gallery’s mission statement says, “Housed on the grounds of the College, the QCC Art Gallery/ CUNY reaches out to contribute to the educational and cultural vitality of the college and surrounding community. The Gallery’s mission is to Collect and preserve; present and interpret; educate and motivate; and stimulate new art production.” The Gallery is open Tuesday 10 A.M - 5 P.M, Wednesday & Thursday 10 A.M - 7 P.M, Friday 10 A.M - 5 P.M and Saturday & Sunday 12 P.M - 5 P.M. Through April 3rd, see Mara Sfara’s whimsical bronze sculptures, which depict mermaids, angels and other mythological creatures, in her “Expressions” exhibit. On April 19th, “BUNDU: Sowei Headpieces of the Sande Society of West Africa from the Imperato Family Collection,” opens, featuring masks from the Bassa, Gola, Mende and Vai peoples.

Mockingbird Behind the Scenes

BY JAMES O’CONNOR AND DIANA DIAZ

To Kill a Mockingbird, the classic novel by author Harper Lee, is celebrating its 42nd year in the consciousness of bibliophiles around the world. The book, which is a coming-of-age story about a young girl named Scout who sees her father take a stand on race and equality in the courtroom, was adapted into a film quickly. A play adaptation, however, took 30 years to appear, under the writing skills of Christopher Sergel. QCC had the honor of producing the play, using its very own talent in early March.

Jonathan Palmiotti, a current student at Queensborough Community College and the stage manager for the production, talked to the Communique about some of the behind-the-scenes activity on-set. Palmiotti has a dream to become a musical theater actor on Broadway and is getting practical experience at QCC with productions such as this one. Later in life he would like to direct musicals. Here is my one-on-one conversation with Jonathan.

James: As stage manager do you feel there is enough funding to make the play look as best as it can be?

Jonathan: Well, yeah, of course. We have a set designer who designs the set and makes a computer diagram of how the set is going to look. Then we order the wood from a lumber company, which is then shipped out to the school. The school pays for all the materials to make it as professional as possible. The students in the stagecraft class build all the sets, which is lead by the teacher/director of stagecraft class, Scott Mancha. But, yes, everything we need we are given and paid for by the school. Even if that includes props, rights for a show, tech equipment, etc.

James: As stage manager, I’m sure you do a lot of work, as well as the actors and actresses and directors. After all of the hard work, time and effort do you feel the plays get advertised as well as they should be? Do you feel there should be a larger audience?

Jonathan: Oh yeah, it does get advertised very well. I’ve seen posters in the administrative building. People that are not even in the theatre department have come up to me asking questions about when the show is. And I’m sure all the actors and actresses are telling their friends and family to come. We do have a very large cast of 17 people, fortunately, so that would probably help bring in sales with the amount people each cast member brings. The show To Kill a Mockingbird is also a classic and when people hear the title, everyone is going to want to come and see this show because of the awards it’s won and how great of a book it is.

James: Have you done anything as stage manager as far as the background or something to do with the setting? Is there a particular scene people should look forward to that will capture the audience?

Jonathan: What I do as stage manager is all the blocking/staging of scenes that the director does. I write it in my script and if the actors forget, I remind them. I also write down all the props and costumes we need. I also write down the light cues and sound cues and call them out on the show dates. So I’m pretty much the director’s wingman.

James: Did the director make any changes compared to the original or is it followed exactly to the book? And what is your favorite scene?

Jonathan: The director had cut a few lines from the judge in the court room scene and added small little lines here and there but nothing too big that dramatically changes the effect of the show. My favorite scene of the would have to be the court scene when the lead of the show, Atticus, lawyer of Maycomb County, Alabama is defending a black man that was accused of rape in the era of segregation. He makes a very good point in each statement made in his testimony and ends up showing the truth to every person in that court even though they sentenced Tom Robinson to death because black people had no rights then.

Upcoming Theater Department productions include Psycho Beach Party. Access http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/speechTheatre/index.html, for more information.
**Aquarius:** (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19) This month will see creative work as well as better luck. Some ego with family members possible. Position and career would move up after the 15th March 2012.

**Leo:** (July 23-Aug. 22) Progress will continue both on your personal as well as your professional front. You will find your progress would be come more due to non academic knowledge and your instincts. Avoid unnecessary resentment against family members.

**Virgo:** (Aug.23-Sept. 23) Changes in residences could come about during this month in the first half. You become quite creative and egoistic at the same time in the second half of the month.

**Libra:** (Sept.24-Oct. 23) Children related developments possible this month. New investments possible, while old investments could bring in gains. Your career would pickup very well in the second half of the month. You will find support of your superiors and people in authoritative positions.

**Scorpio:** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Career will be high on your priority and bring in a high level of growth in the first half of the month. Opposition to your ideas and issues in marriage and relations could come in the second half of the month. Ego should be controlled as that could be the reason for the issues in marriages etc.

**Sagittarius:** (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21) Issues could remain in relationships. New developments in love life possible for those unattached. Your ideas could find opposition. Stamina and immune system could dip in the second half and so you need to take care of your health. Avoid very active or new commitments in the second half of the month.

**Capricorn:** (Dec 22.-Jan. 20) Health and stamina could be low in the first half of the month. You might feel sleepy and low on energy in the first half of the month. Luck and happiness will rise in the second half of the month. You will feel happy in children related members. Travel could come about and would be pleasurable. Positive period in the second half.
At some point everyone has to overcome their own demons, but not everyone gets a flaming skull to do it. “Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance” was a strangely interesting movie to watch. Mark Steven Johnson directed the first “Ghost Rider” film in 2007, and gave the film a more serious tone, as opposed to Mark Neveldine and Brian Taylor, who directed the sequel and gave it a more comedic tone. I suspect this change was to win audience approval. This movie tells the tale of learning to control the beast inside and choosing to do what is right. David S. Goyer, who wrote the first “Ghost Rider” film, returned to write the script for the sequel.

Johnny Blaze/Ghost Rider played by Nicholas Cage, is the story’s protagonist. At the end of the previous film, he had decided to keep his supernatural abilities to help people but in the time between then and the beginning of this film he seems to have lost control over the power which he would like to disown. He soon learns that it isn’t so simple to stop being a hero when he has to save Danny, who is played by Fergus Riordan, from being taken over by the Roarke, also known as the Devil. Johnny teams up with Nadya and Moreau, played by Violante Placido and Idris Elba, to save Danny. Through all of this Blackout, played by Johnny Whitworth, continues his quest to defeat Ghost Rider.

Overall “Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance” is a decent movie to watch and for enjoyment and a few laughs.

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**An Interview with Kevin Spencer**

**By Eva Carrillo**

I would find it strange if one were to purposely pass up on viewing Kevin and Cindy Spencers’ well received “Theatre of Illusion.” Soon to be performed at Queensborough’s Performing Arts Center, on Sunday, May 13th at 3:00 pm, our students will now be able to experience an enticing and original take on magic, which has been compared to the likes of David Copperfield and Criss Angel. Not only do they wish to visually draw their viewers in, they also aim to help the physically challenged through the HEALING PROGRAM, whose mission is to improve the life skills of patients with learning or developmental issues and many other diagnoses. The following interview was communicated over Facebook and has been translated from text talk.

EVA: Hey Mr. and Mrs. Spencer, I am a student at Queensborough Community College and I heard that you both will perform at our theatre on May 13th. I am writing an article for my school newspaper and I decided to do it on your show. For this article, I will like to ask you guys a couple of questions since I know you must be very busy with traveling and all. I will post the questions up and I hope you get back to me soon. Thank you!

KEVIN: Hi Eva, I am really looking forward to the show at QCC! And it’s Mother’s Day – a magical day for Moms!

EVA: Describe the moment when you knew magic would be your life’s work?

KEVIN: I was five when I saw my first magician perform on television but it wasn’t until my sophomore year in college that I saw my first LIVE magic show. I knew then, at that moment, that this is the career that I would pursue.

CINDY: I knew magic was going to be my life when I fell in love and married a magician!

EVA: You’ve both received several awards and honors such as the title International Magicians of the Year, which has also been given to David Copperfield, Criss Angel, and Penn & Teller, The Harry Chapin Award for Contributions to Humanity, and are six-time winners of the honor Performing Arts Entertainers of the Year. Tell me, with all of this praise, how do you keep yourselves grounded?

KEVIN: Awards are nice and they are a tangible way of knowing your work has been acknowledged but there are so many things more important than awards. Every night we perform, we have to earn the applause, gasps and cheers of our audience… and those are the “awards” that really mean something!

Of all the awards, the Harry Chapin Award for Contributions to Humanity is definitely my most cherished. As an artist, it’s remarkable that what I do to entertain people also has the potential to impact the quality of someone’s life. Our ground-breaking work in healthcare (www.MagicTherapy.com) and special education (www.HocusFocusEducation.com) is extremely important to me.

EVA: I read on your website that you both work for the Healing Program. How did you guys hear about the Healing Program, and in what ways are you two able to help these patients with developmental issues?

Simple magic tricks are used with rehab patients to help them achieve very specific therapeutic goals, i.e. improvement in dexterity and fine motor skills, gross motor coordination, planning and sequencing, organizing tasks and movements, and more. I train therapists around the world on this new treatment technique that has gained the approval of the American Occupational Therapy Association.

When working with children with Autism or Developmental Disabilities, magic tricks can be used to engage and motivate them in the learning process while also helping them to better understand math, science and language arts.

EVA: Thank you for your answers!

KEVIN: Please let me know if you have any more questions! Thanks!

Not only does “Theater of Illusion” promise to be a great show you can take your mother to on Mother’s Day, it also great to know that the performers involved are working for a great cause. For tickets, contact the QPAC box office at (718) 631-6311, M-F, 10am-4pm.
Welcome to the first installment of A Gamer’s P.O.V., a gaming review column. The first item in the shopping cart is Sony’s next gen handheld system, the PS Vita, released on 2/22/12, in two different forms: the 3G version will be priced at a hefty $300 and the Wi-Fi version will be priced at $250 (same as PS3 ouch!). Announced during E3 2011, Sony’s PS Vita was shown to boast very impressive features. One such feature is its 5-inch OLED (organic technology that uses less power than your typical LED or LCD but gives brighter display) screen which is also a touch screen, as well. Accompanying the front touch screen is a touch pad in the back, making it possible to enjoy the near PS3 visuals while still using touch controls. I know some of you might be thinking: “The DS has touch screen as well.” But it doesn’t have dual analog sticks. Yes, my friends this time around the PS Vita will allow you to enjoy those intense FPS games that I know you play. The PS Vita will also boast a front and a rear camera and six axis motion sensors enabling you to engage in your games in more ways than one, making it possible to use the Vita as a controller who have the same games as you on either system. You can also start a game on the PS3 and when you leave your house, continue on your PS Vita (provided that you have the same game for Vita as well). Out of a 10, this system gets a solid 7.5. Technologically, it’s very impressive for its time and beats other handhelds such as the DS and the 3DS, but it is very expensive. People who don’t plan on just buying the system by itself, a game like Uncharted: Golden Abyss costs $50 and accessories, such as a mere 8GB memory card, cost $35. These add-ons make the price of the new handheld skyrocket.

This is a big month for Sony; next on the shopping list is the bold, the beautiful, and the in-between. Twisted Metal is a video game series almost as old as me! With the first Twisted Metal coming out in 1995 one can say it has stood the test of time. Twisted Metal is back and better than ever. Returning in an era of online gaming one can only assume that it would have some sort of online component. Ask and you shall receive! Twisted Metal crashes into your realm of reality with an all new online multiplayer mode surely to give your average shooter fanatic something to DIE for. The all new multiplayer has, as far as I can tell from the demo, two game modes. The first is Death Match where you are pitted against 15 other players; whoever has the highest kill score when the time runs out, wins. The second mode is Nuke which is a team orientated mode where one team is on the offense while the other is on defense. The primary goal of offense is to get the leader of the opposing team and drag him through the streets until you get to your rocket launcher. Keep the captive leader there long enough and you’ll earn yourself a missile which is aimed towards the statue of the opposite team; if you manage to hit it you’ll earn your team points. When this happens you’ll switch sides with the defensive team till a winner is declared. In this remake of Twisted Metal there will be only three characters—veterans will recognize them immediately—noobies say hi to Sweet Tooth, Mr. Grim, and Dollface. Although there’s only three characters there’s more vehicles than characters including the never before seen, Talon an helicopter complete with a Gatling gun, oh and get this all characters can use any vehicles which was not the case before. The story mode can be played by all three characters complete with epic boss fights (such as the enormous Dollface robot) and live action cut scenes! I will be showing love by giving it a 9/10 while Twisted Metal showered us with love when it came out on Valentine’s Day for $59.99.

Last is the beautiful and outrageous game, Asura’s Wrath. Some of you might have seen trailers online featuring a man with six arms fighting an enemy bigger than the planet itself, bent on destroying it with his index finger, or another trailer with our same six-armed friend getting stabbed through the Earth by a very long sword (no pun intended). Asura has issues with his fellow god mates as it appears he’s been setup and banished from the heavens. Not only that but it appears the other demigods have also kidnapped his daughter—no wonder he’s so angry. After playing the demo I, personally find it hard to characterize this game into a single genre. In some parts you are shooting fireballs out of your hands, other parts you are bashing your enemies with no hands, and when you’re not doing either you are watching a cut scene with button prompts. I think this is a new angle in action games, apart from the usual “God of War” or “Ninja Gaiden” hack and slash. Asura’s Wrath is rich with colorful graphics and its Buddhist background themes. I feel this will be a nice addition to anyone who is bored with stock games. Asura’s Wrath gets an 8.5/10.
QCC’s Mock Trial Team Soars at Regional Tournaments

By Oluwadamilai K. Atanda (with portions contributed by Professor Ted Rosen)

For the past half-decade, the Queensborough Mock Trial Team has contributed enormously to the rich extra-curricular life that QCC students are exposed to while on campus. The team, through their numerous scrimmages with other institutions and other competitions both intra-college and at regional levels, has engaged students in trial simulations that develop critical thinking and public speaking skills, as well as a knowledge of legal practices and procedures.

Under the auspices of Professor Ted Rosen and his fellow coaches—Professors Stephen Hammel, Kelly Ford and Leslie Francis—the team has recorded notable successes in their travels over the years. Some of their accomplishments include the 2008 Spirit of AMTA award at the Atlantic Regional Tournament at St. John’s University, the 2011 Spirit of AMTA Award at the New Haven Regional Tournament at Yale University, and a Regional Outstanding Witness Award at the Atlantic Regional Tournament in 2009. The Mock Trial Team is also the past recipient of the Queensborough Student Association’s “Best New Club” award. In addition, last year’s team presented to an enthusiastic crowd at the College’s 2011 Honors Conference.

This year was no different; the team did not fail to continue the pedigree set by their predecessors of not coming back empty handed. This year’s Mock Trial Association produced three separate teams to compete at the Regional New Haven tournament at Yale University and the Philadelphia Regional tournament, which took place at the historic Philadelphia Criminal Justice Center.

Two members of the Queensborough Mock Trial team competing on the weekend of February 11-12, 2012, in the American Mock Trial Association (“AMTA”) Regional New Haven Regional tournament at Yale University were awarded the very prestigious and difficult to earn Regional Outstanding Witness Award. This award is presented to the ten students, who, in performing as witnesses in the mock trial competition, earned the highest rankings from the judges presiding at their respective trials out of the more than 78 students competing in the Regional tournament as witnesses.

Mr. Andrew Kim, earning 19 out of a possible 20 ranks, tied for second place for his portrayal of Dr. Ashley Norton, a medical expert who is called as a defense expert to establish reasonable doubt in the accuracy of the breathalyzer test administered to the defendant in the criminal homicide/murder/DUI case resulting from a fatal car crash. Ms. Shirley Aguilar, earning 18 ranks, tied for third place, for her performance as Police Officer Ryan Foster, the first officer responding to the accident scene and who, as a member of the police department’s fatal crash team, reconstructed and analyzed the crash for the prosecution. In commenting on Mr. Kim’s performance after one round, one of the “judges”, a practicing trial lawyer, stated that he had cross-examined more than fifty medical doctors testifying as experts in court and that Mr. Kim was as good as any of them. Ms. Aguilar, who won praise from the judges presiding over the rounds in which her team competed, also doubled as the defense’s accident reconstruction expert—a difficult part which she mastered in only a few days after a change in strategy by the team in the final week before the competition. Notably, QCC was one of only three colleges in the New Haven Regional to have received two of the Outstanding Witness Awards.

There were 26 teams from 20 colleges and universities in the New Haven regional, some of the participating schools included Yale, Princeton, Brown, Columbia and Wesleyan University. All teams competed by trying both sides of the criminal case in four rounds. The two teams of nine students from Queensborough (the only two-year college in the New Haven Regional this year) competed in hard-fought trials against Wesleyan University, Trinity College, Marymount Manhattan College, Hunter College, Roger Williams University and the University of Connecticut.

Queensborough’s third team in the AMTA competition this year competed on the weekend of February 4-5, 2012, at which they were awarded the prestigious Spirit of AMTA Award, awarded to the one team in the Regional tournament that best exemplifies the ideals of honesty, civility and fair play. In four rounds, the team competed against the University of Pennsylvania, Elizabethtown College, Seton Hall University, and Stony Brook University.

The AMTA Regional is part of a nation-wide undergraduate mock trial competition in which approximately 600 teams from colleges and universities across the country compete by trying the same case. This is the second time in the five years of its existence that Queensborough has earned the Regional Outstanding Witness Award and the third time it has been awarded The Spirit of AMTA Award. Queensborough is believed to be one of only approximately four two-year colleges in the entire tournament.

The Mock Trial team is actively recruiting new members. Any student interested in participating should contact via email one of the faculty advisors/coaches of the team, Professor Ted Rosen (TRosen@qcc.cuny.edu), Professor Stephen Hammel (SHammel@qcc.cuny.edu), Professor Kelly Ford (KFord@qcc.cuny.edu), or Professor Leslie Francis (LFrancis@qcc.cuny.edu), or stop in by the Business Department office located in the Administration Building, Room 405. Students may participate on the team as lawyers or as witnesses. Day and evening students and full-time and part-time students are eligible to participate on the team.

Past members of the Mock Trial Team are said to be doing exceptionally well in their endeavors after completing their studies at Queensborough. Some are pursuing degrees that range from law to visual arts, at schools like Queens College and St. John’s University. Undeniably, the Mock Trial Team has given QCC students the opportunity to experience and learn the legal system first hand while severing as a catalyst in catapulting them into conscientious critical thinkers and public speakers.
REGISTER NOW
For the
Queensborough Job Fair
Wednesday, March 21, 2012
12Noon to 3PM
Student Union Lobby
Meet with 50+ Employers
Interview Attire Required – Jeans and sneakers are not permitted.

Attend the Job Fair even if you are not looking for a job!

Register for the Job Fair at www.collegecentral.com/queensborough. You may make an appointment or stop by during walk-in hours (Monday 10am-11:30am, Tuesday and Thursday 2pm-3:30pm) to get help with your resume at the Office of Careers Services in the Library Building Room 429 or call 718-631-6297.

A Parting Gift will be given to all students attending the Job Fair and completing an evaluation.

This free event is open only to Queensborough Community College students and alumni.
Sports

It Ends Here, But It’s Not Over

BY DAVID COBA

After a season of building chemistry as a new young team, the Queensborough Tigers fought hard in a loss against the Hostos Caimans, with an end score of 84-66. The Tigers came out strong at the tip, leading 10-6 on a Stephon Medard jumper, four minutes into the first half. The Caimans challenged the Tigers to fight for the win and the Tigers fell to Hostos’ lead at 21-14, with nine minutes remaining in the first half. QCC tried to fiercely come back into the game, but ended the first half with a score of 46 Hostos-28 Queensborough.

The Tigers came back with another firing start in the second half with a steal by Davin Miner and a jumper by Allan Smith in the first minute of the second half. The Caimans still had the lead, but that did not stop the Tigers from leaving their home court without a fight. The Tigers were slowly progressing for a comeback, but fell short in time. The Tigers fought well with an embracing crowd that supported them from the beginning of the game. The Tigers fought with pride, only leaving them hungry for next year’s playoffs. With a new young team that the Tigers have been building early in the season, the Tigers will come back stronger for next year’s playoffs ready to take off and bring action.

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A Shining Star at QCC

continued from page 3

can spend two hours not being myself. I get to be a different character, such as an 80 year old woman. I mean who gets to be that every day?

Jessica: When you’re performing on stage, how do you feel?

Jennifer: When I act in an opera, I’m like, “This is real,” and I feel what the character I’m playing is feeling. Like, if the character is supposed to be sad then I’m sad, and if they’re happy, I’m happy. But after the performance is done, I feel exhilarated. I get an amazing feeling of being able to do this.

Jessica: Did you ever feel like giving up because it seemed too hard or difficult at times like it was never going to happen?

Jennifer: No, I have. When I was living in Rochester, New York, I’d been on 35 auditions and 34 of them rejected me and I cried for two hours. I was still waiting for one more letter. I waited for a month and they said no. I just got a call last week and was rejected for being short, but it’s not my fault that I’m short. I can’t do anything about that, so I got another part instead, but if the part was just for voice-singing only I would have gotten it. So it’s really hard, but you get to learn not to take the rejections personally.

Jessica: What advice would you give to others who want to succeed in their dreams, especially into the performing arts business?

Jennifer: Stick to it! Go ahead and cry but when you fall off the horse you get back on. Just persevere, be determined, be optimistic and don’t give up!

After talking to Jennifer Gliere, I felt very motivated and inspired to achieve in my goals and in my dreams and make them come true. Will Smith has said, “Don’t let anyone tell you you can’t do something. People can’t do something for themselves so they tell you that you can’t do it. You want something go get it period.” Talking to Prof. Gliere was a great and wonderful experience, and she reinforces Smith’s statement. She is the perfect example of a role model that we can all look up to. She truly is a star!

Are you interested in writing for the Communique?

Contact Dr. Grisel Y. Acosta at GAcosta@qcc.cuny.edu.

Anyone interested submitting a letter to the editor, writing an op-ed piece, or ask a question can write to qcccommunique@gmail.com.

Put “LETTER TO THE EDITOR,” “QUESTION” or “OP-ED” in the subject line, based on your interest.
It’s not where you start. It’s where you end up.

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McGhee Transfer Admission Session:
Thursday, March 15, 6–8 p.m., 7 East 12th Street, New York, NY

For event information and to RSVP visit scps.nyu.edu/mcghee-events

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