What’s News

**Roundtable Examines Biden’s First 100 Days**

At many workplaces, an employee’s first three months or so are considered a probationary period. The stakes are much higher when the office is the White House. On Wednesday, April 21, from 12:15 to 1:30 pm, Michael Krasner (Political Science) and Jeffrey Isaac ’79, James H. Rudy Professor of Political Science at Indiana University, Bloomington, will explore the priorities, opportunities, and challenges of the Biden administration. This event is free and open to the general public; to attend, register here. Questions may be submitted to the panelists during the registration process, or in real-time during the live Q&A session.

Interested in this event, but can’t attend? Sign up anyway. The discussion will be recorded, and a link to the recording will be sent out afterward to all who register.

**Learn about Ranked Choice Voting**

City-wide ranked choice voting will debut at the primaries on June 22,
when Gotham’s electorate will get to choose up to five candidates for mayor and every other office on the ballot. Students, faculty, and staff can learn about this new process at an interactive training session presented virtually by CUNYVotes this Thursday, April 22, from 6 to 7 pm.

Register in advance for the event, sponsored by NYC Votes, CUNY SPH Graduate Student Government Association, CUNY Black Student Union, Baruch College Pre-Law Society, GenVote@Queens College, City Tech Nursing-NUTRIX Nursing Club, CUNY Law Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity International, CUNY Coalition for Students with Disabilities, CUNY Council on Student Disability Issues, Kingsborough Community College Student Government Association, LaGuardia Community College Student Government Association, CUNY SLU Student Union, and CUNY Adult Literacy Program.

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**CodePath To Put More Students on Tech Track**

Queens College is one of four CUNY campuses where CodePath—a nonprofit that promotes computer science education among under-represented minorities—will increase its offerings. These free programs will also be expanded at City College, College of Staten Island, and Hunter College.

“CodePath is uniquely positioned to help New York get back to work by giving diverse talent best-in-class computer science education, and then pairing them with local employers,” said Michael Ellison, CEO of the organization, which began its association with CUNY in 2016. “We are deeply grateful for CUNY’s commitment to ensuring that all students have the tools to access and thrive in a post-Covid workplace.”

“CUNY is thrilled to deepen its partnership with CodePath, which has a proven track record of helping young underserved students secure steady jobs inside the most innovative companies,” said Angie Kamath, dean of Continuing Education and Workforce Programs at CUNY.

“In the last year, technology has become critical to every aspect of our lives, allowing us to offer many in-person activities online,” observed Queens College Frank H. Wu. “CodePath’s initiative demonstrates how nonprofits and public institutions can work together to rebuild the economy.”

CodePath.org runs free computer science courses and career services in partnership with top technology firms like Cognizant, Microsoft, Bloomberg, and Verizon. In addition to personalized training, all courses include access to career preparation services, networking opportunities, and industry mentors. More than 100 students who have completed CodePath courses through CUNY have secured jobs at companies like JPMorgan Chase, Amazon, Google, and more.
Interns Sought for Recovery Corps

The CUNY Recovery Corps is recruiting students for paid positions with the Department of Youth and Community Development’s Summer Youth Employment Program. Interested parties have to act fast: The application deadline is this Saturday, April 24.

Recovery Corps members will participate in in-person, online, or hybrid internships, earning $15 per hour, 25 hours per week, for 6 weeks, for a total of 150 hours ($2,250). Placements will start on or after July 5 and conclude in August.

QC students age 16 to 24 who live in the five boroughs are eligible. There are no restrictions on class level; incoming freshmen or transfers, continuing students, graduate students, and students graduating in May are welcome to apply.

Big Idea of the Week

Since this week’s “Big Ideas” video debuts on Thursday, April 22—Earth Day—the episode will feature Stephen Pekar (School of Earth and Environmental Sciences). Pekar, who focuses on paleoceanography, paleoclimatology, and Antarctic glacial history, will explain how past climate changes provide insight into the future of our planet. “Big Ideas,” an online video produced by the Office of Communications and Marketing, highlights significant research conducted by QC faculty.

The Art of Wellness

The Godwin-Ternbach Museum will be Zooming into wellness next week with Mind, Body & Soul, a series of programs—for current students only—covering topics such as yoga and meditation, spirituality, and relaxation through...
Everyone who needs a break is welcome to visit the G-T’s virtual exhibitions, *Pages from the Photography Collection: Feininger, Genthe, Gibson, Schwarzenbach, and Warhol*, and *Human|Nature: Portraits from the Permanent Collection.*

**Helping Moms and Dads Cope**

Families with children experienced additional stressors in the past year. Next Tuesday, April 27, from 6 to 7:30 pm, the CUNY Faculty Development Consortium will offer practical coping strategies. The consortium will present a workshop co-sponsored by Queens College: Parenting Through the Pandemic: Five Things We Can Do Right Now to Support Our Kids and Ourselves, led by Tracy A. Dennis-Tiwary, a psychology professor at Hunter College. To join the conversation, register here. The Zoom link will be sent in a confirmation email.

**Study Computer Language or English This Summer**

Python is the most popular programming language, used in artificial intelligence, financial services, and data science. Instagram and Pinterest are also built on Python, which by the way is named after the British comedy troupe Monty Python, not the family of nonvenomous snakes. Students can learn more about this language this summer, when the Computer Science Department is offering CS90, Introduction to Python. No prior programming background is assumed.

Prefer literature to electronic language? English 241, the Text in Its Historical Moment, looks at the relationship between texts and their historical circumstances, addressing the question of how literary works are enmeshed in their material, economic, social, and political conditions. Readings include a wide range of kinds of material, including texts traditionally considered literary or imaginative and those traditionally considered documentary or factual, as well as other cultural objects like films or works of material culture. Prerequisite or corequisite is English 170W.

What other courses are available this summer? Find out.

**Scholarships for Hispanic Female Undergraduates**

The New York League of Puerto Rican Women (NYLPRW) [www.nylprw.org](http://www.nylprw.org) is accepting applications for its 2021 Scholarships. Financial awards are granted annually to undergraduate Puerto Rican/Hispanic women selected for their academic excellence and service to the community. Completed applications must be submitted by Monday, May 28. Scholarship criteria, application forms, and instructions can be found at [http://nylprw.org/awards/](http://nylprw.org/awards/).
Poetry Month Continues

This week, QView features the poetry of the English Department’s Kimiko Hahn and Ryan Black.

A Daughter
After Being Asked if I Write the Occasional Poem

After leaving Raxruhá, after
crossing Mexico with a coyote,
after reaching at midnight
that barren New Mexico border,
a man and his daughter
looked to Antelope Wells
for asylum and were arrested. After
forms read in Spanish
to the Mayan-speaking father,
after a cookie but no water, after
the wait for the lone bus
to return for their turn, after boarding,
after the little girl's temperature spiked,
she suffered two heart attacks,
vomited, and stopped breathing. After
medics revived the seven-year-old
at Lordsburg station, after
she was flown to El Paso where she died,
the coroner examined
the failed liver and swollen brain. Then,
Jakelin’s chest and head were stitched up
and she returned to Guatemala
in a short white coffin
to her mother, grandparents,
and dozens of women preparing
tamales and beans to feed the grieving.
In Q'eqchi', w-e means mouth.

—Kimiko Hahn

Hatchlings

Though tough to experiment
on a crocodile in the wild,
laboratory research has yielded
that prior to hatching,
a little one begins to coo.
Why?
To signal to the mama,
start digging?
To cue siblings to coo
for a synchronous emergence?
Or to practice wheedling
for pastime or coddle? Or
perhaps to rehearse menace
that even a crocodile must acquire.
Maybe, though, cooing is fun. How
to research what transpires
in the head of a hatchling
before it's hatched—
and why we need to know—
might well be an intimacy
not meant to be trespassed.

—Kimiko Hahn

**Why Bother?**

Because even in the deep neighborhoods of Queens, Jonathan Franzen can find a houndshark, the smooth dogfish splayed beneath the bench of an N train, rotting out, promising an empty car on a Wednesday night

in August, the worst heat of the summer, though some will mind an awful smell to pose the dead with props—a cigarette, a MetroCard, an open can of Red Bull—the images posted to Instagram before a transit officer
can carry the shark out in a garbage bag. But, Jonathan, this isn’t figurative. The dead dogfish is not a metaphor for the end of the social novel. And on streets where Hindi, Russian, Korean, and Colombian Spanish, by which

you must mean Jackson Heights, *are spoken in equal measure*, though you’ll cut *Colombian* in revision, even here where in 1991 *ugly news* could still reach you, no one speaks the dark and vegetating language

of shark. Why bother? Because the first word my niece spoke with proficiency was *goodbye*. *Goodbye, park.* *Bye-bye, trees. Goodbye, Uncle Ryan.* There, there now. *Goodbye.* I’d read on trains that stitched the borough like a syntax

how an elegist submits to the ineffectual, that language is *an equation of the dissimilar*, undone as easily as Penelope’s loom. *Gone,* we say, and ask something of permanence, an exchange, but the elegist,

inheriting a chorus, sings in half-forgotten grief, and the dead are made to rise from the churchyard of poems to a votive of April stars. *Goodbye, Mommy.* *Goodbye, Da-da.* Think of my sister, collapsed at the foot of her bed, an artery hemorrhaging in the frontal lobe of her brain. Think of the EMT who radioed *overdose* to Queens East, *cardiac dysrhythmia*, then held my sister’s head to the side to draw out vomit with a gloved hand. At the hospital, it took

three men to sedate her, her body decoding each signal as threat, and when her husband called there was no news—no planned surgery, no tomograph—so he repeated her name for its simple truth, like an apostrophe, or like a child learning their way into the new world. Six years from holding his only daughter.

And if grief’s a republic of worthless currency, make it prose, just once. Give it consequence. Or let him be lonely.

—Ryan Black

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**QC Alum Peter Bonet Preserves Memories of Greek Life**

Peter Bonet ’71 had the time of his life as a member of the Alpha Lambda Alpha (ALA) fraternity at Queens College. Since then, he has kept those memories alive and given back to the college that was such a source of joy for him.
“When I got to Queens College in 1967, it was a big campus with a lot of students,” recalls Bonet. “I had to find out what was the best way to socialize. With that in mind, I decided to see what fraternity life was like. I met the people at ALA. We hit it off really well, and I joined them.”

Bonet helped to plan parties, which the frat hosted several times a week at their house in Woodhaven. They often held theme parties with Queens College sororities. All the brothers were actively involved in intramural sports with the fraternity, such as softball, football, and swimming. Inter-fraternity sports were popular on campus at the time, and the ALA football team won the championship game for several years, including in 1968, when the game was broadcast on QC Radio.

“These were very organized guys,” noted Bonet. “There were rules about pledging. We never had any of the issues that you read about now, ever. Everyone understood that you didn’t embarrass the fraternity.”

ALA continued as a local chapter at Queens College until 1973, when the popularity of fraternities and sororities began to wane on campus. But in 1977, Bonet along with some other frat brothers, set up a Queens College ALA alumni group. Bonet organized regular meetings, which included annual ski trips, camping, picnics, and many other activities. More than 40 years later, the ALA group continues to meet several times each year, including at QC’s annual homecoming celebration. Bonet even collected old photos from ALA members and presented a movie about ALAs history at recent homecomings. “These are long-lasting friends,” said Bonet. “We continue to have a ball.”

After attending homecoming in 2010, Bonet and ALA were inspired to start a scholarship for two deserving QC students each year. Bonet is the organizer of the scholarship, collecting donations from fellow ALA alums and judging the essays submitted by applicants for scholarship consideration. The group plans to award the scholarship once again in 2021.

Everyone from ALA is in their 70s now. Many went on to marry sorority members they met at QC and started families. Some ALA members have passed in recent years, but the remaining brothers still make it a point to get together each year. After a hiatus last year due to COVID, Bonet and his brothers are looking forward to their annual ski trip in 2022.

“It was just enjoying the guys that made me continue to organize events,”
added Bonet. “How many friendships could you have where you are friends with people from 50 years ago? It’s unheard of.”

Heard Around the Virtual Campus

Sean J. Pierce
José Miguel Martínez Torrejón
Natalie Bump Vena

Veronica Hinton (Psychology) was awarded $776,242 from a $3.7 million multi-site NIH grant for “Association of the Fragile X Premutation with Cognitive and Behavioral Skills in Children”. . . . Miki Makihara (Anthropology) provided commentary for a “CBS Sunday Morning” story about the first music school built on Easter Island . . . . Sean J. Pierce, director of The Summit Apartments, received the Capstone on Campus Management Excel Award for 2020 . . . . José Miguel Martínez Torrejón (HLL), director of the Catherine of Bragança Center for Portuguese Studies, was named CUNY Distinguished Professor of Latin American, Iberian, and Latino Cultures . . . . Townsend Harris High School and QC will be able to maintain their signature Bridge Year program—in which the high school’s seniors take six credits per semester of classes at the college—thanks to a $400,000 allocation from Assemblywoman Nily Rozic for academic 2021-2022. Rozic is a Townsend Harris alumna . . . . Natalie Bump Vena (Urban Studies) was cited in a New York Times article about homeowners’ ongoing struggles after a sewer pipe collapse caused significant damages in South Ozone Park in 2019 . . . . President Frank H. Wu is quoted in the press release announcing the Yellow Whistle campaign. Launched on April 19, the program distributes yellow whistles—customized with the words “We Belong”—at multiple New York locations, including QC and the New-York Historical Society, and through

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community organizations and rallies across the country. In other news, President Wu was named to City & State’s 2021 Higher Education Power 100. On Friday, April 23, from 3 to 4:30 pm, he will discuss “Diversity and Democracy: What Would You Have Done in WWII?” in a Fridays@3 webinar presented by The Graduate Center, CUNY. To attend, register here. President Wu will also be among the speakers on Sunday, April 25, at 11 am, when Queens Borough President Donovan Richards Jr. and special guest Congresswoman Grace Meng present We Belong Here: Queens Rises Against Hate. The rally, taking place at Flushing Town Hall, will be followed by a march of solidarity against anti-Asian hate and violence. Reserve your place with an RSVP.

The Q View is produced by the Office of Communications and Marketing.

Comments and suggestions for future news items are welcome. Send them to jay.hershenson@qc.cuny.edu.