



# THE QView



Discimus ut serviamus: **We learn so that we may serve.**

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## What's News

### College Holds Vigil Against Bigotry and Violence

The flag was lowered to half-mast on campus yesterday in response to the weekend's hate crimes. At 8 pm, QC Hillel held a vigil to commemorate the victims. After offering his deepest condolences to everyone who lost family members or friends, President Félix V. Matos Rodríguez said, "All of us lost something in the horrendous attacks."

Citing the Constitution's guarantee of freedom of religion, he noted that "we are obliged to respect the rights of all people to practice religion without fear of reprisal or intimidation or, as took place last week, terror. The attack on Pittsburgh's Tree of Life congregation is thought to be the deadliest attack in American Jewish history. The murder of two African Americans in Jeffersontown, Kentucky, took place after the gunman was unable to enter a predominately black church. Like the series of pipe bombs delivered to political leaders and other public figures, this unspeakable violence represents a threat to everything the United States represents."

Quoting the late Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel, Matos said, "There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest." In conclusion, Matos urged everyone to speak up when confronted with bigotry, to join together in respecting the Constitutionally protected rights of religious observance and free speech, and to honor the memory of the people who died so tragically.

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The crowd eagerly filing into Powdermaker Hall 333 on Tuesday, October 23, at 11 am



wasn't attending a class. In a Professionals on Campus event sponsored by the Office of Institutional Advancement, QC alum and Fordham University School of Law graduate Todd Higgins (in photo at left, and below), co-founder of the firm Crosby & Higgins LLP, gave a presentation about the importance of effective communication skills. Higgins honed his own communication skills through the QC Forensics Society and served as its president in alternation with his brother, Matt Higgins '98—recently a guest Shark on ABC-TV's "Shark Tank."



Students in Media Studies 281, "Introduction to Sports Broadcasting," a class created by award-winning sports television producers Michael Cohen '83 (in photo at right, with a student) and Michael Weisman '71, got experience by the truckload on Wednesday, October 24. Cohen arranged for a mobile unit—commonly used in the production of sports and entertainment shows—to be brought on campus for a hands-on demonstration. During a previous class session, students visited MSG Networks to see how a studio operates.





President Felix V. Matos Rodriguez was honored as the Educator of the Year at Transitional Services for New York's annual dinner dance gala on Thursday, October 25. (Matos is seen above with other TSINY honorees, as well as Council Member Daniel Dromm, first on left, and Assembly Member David Weprin, standing next to the president.) TSINY, a highly regarded, not-for-profit mental health corporation, provides community-based services to individuals with mental disabilities.

Spook Week 2018, October 22-28, was a screaming success. The Student Association distributed goody bags and cocoa; the Office of Student Development and Leadership helped people make their own luminaries; and the Summit Apartments put together a gaming tournament. Then all three sponsors got together to arrange an outdoor screening of *A Quiet Place* (in photo



below) and a trip to Six Flags. On Halloween itself, the campus will be on the alert for diminutive ghouls: The Child Development Center will lead kids in a parade on the Quad in their costumes. That night, all students are invited to the James Muyskens Conference Room in the Summit Apartments for games and snacks; costumes are encouraged.



## **Louis Armstrong House Museum Gets Grant to Renovate Adjacent Property**

At her death in 2011, Selma Herald, next-door neighbor and dear friend of Louis and Lucille Armstrong, donated her home to the Queens College Special Projects Fund. Now, thanks to Mayor Bill de Blasio and City Council Member Francisco Moya's allocation of \$1.9 million in new capital funding—on top of \$1.63 million already committed by New York City—Selma's House will be restored and integrated into the Louis Armstrong House Museum complex.

To provide an accurate vision of what the Armstrong home might have looked like at its 1943 purchase by Lucille Armstrong—who later undertook extensive renovations—the project will preserve the historic character of Herald's property. The restoration project will also add office and storage space, as well as a professional catering kitchen for events and earned revenue, while enlarging the existing Louis Armstrong garden, a summer concert venue.

"Louis Armstrong once said, 'We'll be around when the others will be forgotten.' Thanks to New York City, Pop's beloved neighborhood will continue to attract visitors from all over the world to be delighted and inspired by his musical genius and humanitarian legacy," said B.J. Adler, interim director of the LAHM. "The expanding Armstrong campus in Corona that inspired 'What a Wonderful World' will remain the warm and welcoming community center it has been since the historic house museum opened in the fall of 2003, as well as one of the brightest stars in the constellation of African American Heritage sites in the world."

Across the street from LAHM and Selma's House, the Louis Armstrong House Museum Education Center, also supported by city and state capital funding, is under construction. This building will include a welcome center; a state-of-the-art home for the Louis Armstrong Research Collections (currently housed on the QC campus); a 68-seat auditorium, featuring a baby grand piano purchased with \$100,000 in city funding; exhibition space; a gift shop; and storage. A year-round concert schedule will be part of the expanded programming made possible by the development of the Armstrong Corona campus. [Click here](#) to read the New York Times story.

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## **Campus Conference Explores Options for Resolving Conflict**

QC's Center for Ethnic, Racial, and Religious Understanding and the International Center for Ethno-Religious Mediation are co-hosting a three-day conference—Traditional Systems of Conflict Resolution—today through Thursday, November 1, in the Patio Room.

This conference will give researchers, scholars, policy makers, and practitioners an opportunity to exchange ideas and learn from traditional rulers in countries around the world. The outcome of the exchange, inquiry, and discussion will inform the international community about the roles and present-day importance of traditional systems of conflict resolution.

CERRU Director Sophia McGee will deliver opening remarks; Ernest Uwazie, director of the Center for African Peace and Conflict Resolution at California State University, Sacramento, will give the keynote.

Other distinguished speakers include Jacqueline M. Nolan-Haley, director of the Alternative Dispute Resolution and Conflict Resolution Program at Fordham University School of Law; Ismael Muvingi, conflict resolution director at Nova Southeastern University; and Harry H. Moskoff, investigative archaeologist/journalist, filmmaker, and managing director of Moskoff-Media, Israel.

A complete agenda and registration information can be found at [www.icermediation.org](http://www.icermediation.org).

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## **Students Get a Shot at Health**

Free flu vaccine is available for QC students today and tomorrow at Frese Hall 310, 10 am to 2 pm, courtesy of the Health Service Center. To qualify, students must be 18 years or older, un- or underinsured, and bring their QCID. Supply is limited; first come, first served. Information: [healthquestions@qc.cuny.edu](mailto:healthquestions@qc.cuny.edu)



## **Artful Introductions**

New and returning graduate students in the studio art program are the stars of the Second Annual Icebreaker MFA Show, opening tonight at the gallery on the fourth floor of Klapper Hall. Participants will be in attendance for a meet and greet in a reception tonight at 8 pm and at a club mixer on Wednesday, October 31, from 12:15 to 1:30 pm. The exhibition, presented by Studio Art MFA students and the Graduate Arts Club, will be on display through

## Scores of Bargains

Music-related books, recordings in multiple formats (CDs, DVDs, LPs, cassettes, VHS tapes), and complete scores will be available at significant discounts at the Music Library's book sale in the Atrium on Wednesday, October 31, from 11 am to 4 pm. [musiclibrary@qc.cuny.edu](mailto:musiclibrary@qc.cuny.edu)

Proceeds will support purchase of new materials. Fans of vocal music will want to schedule their shopping before or after the Queens College Women's Choir performance that day in Rosenthal Library Rotunda from 12:15 to 1:30 pm.

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## Calandra Symposium Focuses on the Italian Diaspora

"Transnationalism and Questions of Identity," taking place November 1-3 at the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute (25 West 43rd Street, Manhattan), ranges widely, examining, among other topics, the perspective of established Italian Quebecois filmmakers; Italian restaurant names in Italy and the United States; and Italians in Crimea. The global focus is especially appropriate, since this conference represents the middle segment of a three-part symposium, *Diaspore Italiane—Italy in Movement*, which began in Melbourne, Australia, in April and will conclude in June in Genova, Italy. QC's Anthony Tamburri (Calandra) and Fred Gardaphe (English) are chairing panels this week. For the complete schedule, visit <https://calandrainstitute.org>.

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## TIME to Celebrate Math Education

TIME2000, QC's secondary mathematics teacher prep program, is holding its 17th annual conference this Friday, November 2, from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm, in the ballroom on the fourth floor of the Student Union. Eugenia Cheng--scientist in residence at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and author of books such as *How to Bake Pi* and the *Art of Logic*--will deliver the keynote. The schedule adds up to fun for high school students and their teachers, for whom admission is free. For information, contact Naomi Weinman at [Naomi.Weinman@qc.cuny.edu](mailto:Naomi.Weinman@qc.cuny.edu).

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## A Chance to Trace the Path of Martin Luther King Jr.

Every January, during the week that includes Martin Luther King Jr. Day, QC sponsors **In the Footsteps of Dr. King, a five-day trip** to Georgia and Alabama, led by Rabbi Moshe Shur (Jewish Studies), a veteran of the Civil Rights Movement. By encompassing major sites associated with the movement and King, the itinerary immerses students in the fight for equality—a subject that remains relevant today. The next trip will take place January 20-24, 2019.



**Applications** are due this Thursday, November 1. All currently enrolled QC

students carrying at least six credit hours, with a GPA of 2.5 or better, are eligible.

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## Heard Around Campus



**Htin Linn Aung**, who participated in the Tech Talent Pipeline at QC, was among the top 50 finalists in the IBM Vault, a contest in which 3,000 competitors had to use creative problem solving, social engineering, and tech skills (such as cryptography and cybersecurity) to open six digital locks. . . .

**Jonathan Buchsbaum** (Media Studies) has been named a **Chevalier des Artes et Lettres** by the French Ministry of Culture, perhaps in connection with the publication last year of his book *Exception Taken: How France Has Defied Hollywood's New World Order* . . . .

**Enoch Jemmott**, a SEEK student, is one of three people profiled in the feature-length documentary *Personal Statement*, which premiered on PBS on the evening of Tuesday, October 23 . . . .

The lab of **Susan Rotenberg** (Chemistry and Biochemistry) recently published an article, "Phosphorylation state of Ser<sup>165</sup> in alpha-tubulin is a toggle switch that controls proliferating human breast tumors" in *Cellular Signaling* (Volume 52, pages 74-82). NIH sponsored this research . . . .

**Esther Yuabov**, an undergraduate, made the front page of the *Bukharian Times* with her article about "Why Bukharian Jewish History Matters," a lecture presented by anthropologist Alanna Cooper. The talk was organized by the Jewish Studies Department at QC, the Bukharian Jewish Union, and MEROS: Center for Bukharian Jewish Research and Identity. . . .

## In Memoriam

The QC community was appalled to learn that Baltsar Beckeld, a QC alum who held positions at the Louis Armstrong House Museum and the Clemente Solo Velez Cultural & Educational Center—and pursued a career in acting and stand-up comedy—passed away earlier this fall at the age of 42. Baltsar had pancreatic cancer, a disease that typically has no symptoms until it's too late; he died in the loving company of his mother and brother, Benedict, who shared the sad news on Facebook. "Baltsar was a real gem, just an adorable sweetheart to work with," recalls Ricky Riccardi, director of research collections at LAHM. "He was

brilliant and learned every aspect of his job inside and out, but did everything with a tremendous sense of humor and warmth. Everyone who worked with him or who encountered him during his time at the Armstrong House instantly enjoyed being in his presence. I know I speak for many of our mutual co-workers when I say I'm shocked and heartbroken at this tragic loss."



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

**Comments and suggestions for future news items and the 80th  
Anniversary Website are welcome.  
Send them to [jay.hershenson@qc.cuny.edu](mailto:jay.hershenson@qc.cuny.edu).**