

# The Kingsman

Spring 2017- Issue 10

Tuesday, May 2, 2017



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Photo credit to Derek Norman

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THE KINGSMAN THE VOICE OF BROOKLYN COLLEGE

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News Briefs

Muslim Activist May Not Speak at Commencement Ceremony

President Morton Klein of the Zionist Organization of America has addressed Governor Cuomo in the hopes of stopping Muslim civil rights activist, Linda Sarsour, from speaking at a CUNY commencement ceremony.

In a statement released from a Dean at the CUNY School of Public Health, Ayman El-Mohandes said the reality was that the keynote speaker opposes all discrimination, citing her previous efforts. It is unclear who the keynote speaker will be after this incident, but Cuomo spokeswoman Abbey Fashouer said, "Commencement speakers at CUNY are selected independently by the individual campuses, and the Board [of Trustees] does not approve the process or have any say in the matter."

- Danielle Kogan, Features Editor

BC Professor Receives Patent for Cancer Fighting Compound

Professor Maria Contel has recently been granted a patent for a compound that will help fight triple-negative breast cancer.

Triple negative breast cancer is hard to detect, and is one of the most aggressive types of cancer.

The ruthenium-based compound, according to Contel, is less toxic to human tissue than platinum-based derivatives, and about 50 times more effective.

This is the second patent she's been granted, the first being for other gold-and-titanium compounds that was used to fight renal cancer.

Though she did not start off researching cancer when she began at Brooklyn College, she told BC News, "I believe I've come a long way."

- Ashley Matos, Business Manager

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ACTIVIST GLOBAL

CAMERA SECURI

College Grounds Not Fully Monitored by Security Cameras

By Paul Frangipane Managing Digital Editor

Brooklyn College security cameras have been offline for years and will not all be operational until a nearly four-year project is completed this summer.

As part of a CUNY-wide initiative to upgrade the fire and security systems at the campuses, \$19,667 was approved by the University to update the systems at Brooklyn College as part of the 2008 to 2012 CUNY master plan. The upgrades were requested for the 2008 to 2009 phase of the plan and were estimated to be completed in Jan. 2010.

"All areas of campus have not been covered by cameras for years," said Director of Public Safety Don Wenz. In the late 1990s, there were some cameras installed, but the old system burnt out and is not entirely operational now, he said.

The administration has been looking to upgrade for the last 10 to 15 years and it is finally coming to fruition. Wenz said in about 30 days, the college will have capabilities in all cameras campus-wide.

James Hall, which is represented by the college's 2900 Bedford Ave. address, was approved on July 1, 2009 for work "to modify existing fire alarm systems," according to New York City Buildings Department documents.

"This project will prove to be a significant improvement to the safety and security of the campus," stated the CUNY master plan back in 2008. "The new security system will provide a robust working system to serve the needs of the Public Safety department of the college."

What was estimated to be complet-



Cameras, like these, have not been operational since the 90s. / Credit Derek Norman

ed roughly seven years ago and only started within the last year and half, according to Director of Facilities and Maintenance Francis Fitzgerald. In one or two months, installa-

"I don't know why, but what's the point of being there if they don't work? From the time I came to the school, I always thought the cameras worked, but I was so shocked that the cameras didn't work, they're just there to fool us." - Alexandria Daas, Public Accounting Major

"Both of these systems are replacing either defunct or obsolete systems," Fitzgerald said. "The fire alarm system is replacing our old systems that, they were so old they didn't meet code first of all and they were very difficult to maintain. The secu-

rity system is replacing what was or is there."

As the project is run by Johnson Controls, Facilities' only role is to map out the buildings and provide

access to rooms and advice.

James Hall is currently waiting inspection from the New York Fire Department and Whiteman is being modified for re-inspec-

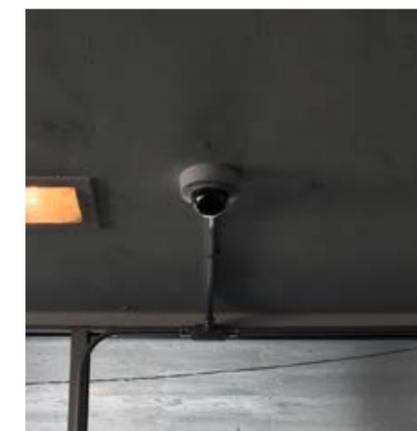
vandalized. When she alerted the Accounting Department about the incident, she was told that the camera that points at the board is not actually operational.

"I don't know why, but what's the point of being there if they don't work?" Daas said. "From the time I came to the school, I always thought the cameras worked, but I was so shocked that the cameras didn't work, they're just there to fool us."

Wenz does not believe that on-line cameras will necessarily curb crime. "We don't have that many crimes on campus that would be affected by cameras," he said. "Somebody that looks to take something normally would look around to see if there are cameras anyway."

Cameras will have live-stream as well as recording capabilities and will be monitored by Public Safety 24/7.

Alexandria Daas, a public accounting major takes part in a club in Whitehead Hall and realized that the club's poster board was being



Cameras scattered across campus that are an empty promise of safety. Kingsman reporter finds that, though most students thought these were being monitored and recording in case of crime, the cameras have not been operating since the 90s. / Credit Derek Norman

# Holocaust Remembrance Brings A Survivor's Story

By Hannah Grossman  
Staff Writer

An Auschwitz survivor passed the torch of Holocaust remembrance to Brooklyn College students with words embroidered with hope and revolution.

Students marched through campus from Bedford Avenue to Hillel Place holding "never forget" signs. The size of the march grew as curious onlookers were handed signs and absorbed into the crowd.

When students were seated at the Hillel building, they observed passports of children who perished during the Holocaust. Then they heard from a child survivor, Hanna Wechsler, who brought alive the crime these passports represented.

"I am a proud citizen of Auschwitz," Hanna Wechsler declared.

Wechsler pointed to the ceiling, her kind and deeply captivating eyes observed something that wasn't present in the auditorium. She explained, "It says 'Arbeit Macht Frei,' which means work makes you free." Prisoners discovered the falsity of this message after passing through it upon entering Auschwitz.

A young girl's observations from the train platform were re-lived 72 years later, from the "inhuman



Hanna Wechsler speaking at Brooklyn College last week / Courtesy of Hannah Grossman

smell" of burning flesh, to the expressionless faces of walking skeletons. "They were bags of bones and three-fourths dead," she said.

The cattle car doors opened and a child's foot touched the platform. When her foot met with the other, an adult stood, and the child forever gone.

**"When we opened our eyes in the morning the only thing we knew was that we were afraid."**

**- Hanna Wechsler**

"There were no children at Auschwitz, suffering makes you suddenly grow up," she said.

Wechsler explained that fear ran Auschwitz, constantly hovering in the prisoner's minds and was a primary topic of conversation. "When we opened our

eyes in the morning the only thing we knew was that we were afraid."

Every morning at 5 a.m. barrack #18 emptied for the day's labor, while Wechsler hid under the bunks from the S.S. with the help of fellow bunkmates and her mother. "I was non-existent," Wechsler said.

Her mother's daring sheltered her from the multi-faceted dangers that swarmed Auschwitz, such as selection, slave labor and starvation.

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# The Community Wonders: What Could the Tuition-Free Program Bring to the Table?



Flatbush Avenue, just outside Brooklyn College, feels the effects of new tuition legislation. / Creative Commons

By Kenji Yamada  
Staff Writer

The Excelsior Scholarship Program, New York State's ambitious plan to grant free tuition to students from households making under \$125,000 per year, has enjoyed a positive reception among students, faculty and the Flatbush community alike thus far.

Across campus, not one student expressed an overall negative feeling toward the program. "It's been a long time coming, and I'm glad it's finally here," said a computer science major in the lobby of In-

gersoll. The mandate that students remain in New York State after their education for as many years as they received free tuition did not seem to bother many. "Where else would I go?" asked one student in the Boylan Hall cafeteria. One student, however, wondered how this might impact her choice of graduate school.

Reactions were similarly optimistic along Flatbush and Nostrand avenues. A worker in an incense shop along Flatbush Avenue, himself a current computer science major within a two-year program in the CUNY system, stressed the impor-

ance of an educated populace and expressed excitement over its immediate benefits to him. "I won't have to interrupt my education now," he said. "I'll go straight on to City College."

Businesses too, expressed a positive outlook on the program. "If more people can afford to go to college, that's more customers for me," said a fruit-seller on Avenue H. "Hopefully, they'll be able to afford some fruit too." A worker at a juice bar, similarly, called it a "win-win" situation for his business. "Maybe I'll even enroll myself," he said. Kenneth Mbonu, executive director of the Flatbush Nostrand-Junction Business Improvement District, outlined an optimistic vision in which his proposed boulevard-style entrance to Brooklyn College along Hillel Place along with the free tuition plan would strengthen Brooklyn College's already-strong connection to the neighborhood.

However, some expressed cynicism over the plan's effectiveness in addressing inequality. An

elderly man waiting for the B39 wondered how effective increasing college's economic accessibility might be, when, according to him, students are being failed at a much earlier age. "We'll see a slight increase in the number of students," he said. "But at the income where free tuition really matters, this plan doesn't do much."

Echoing this sentiment, students who identified themselves as coming from low-income backgrounds openly wondered about who the plan's greatest beneficiaries might be. "A family making \$50,000 a year with two or three kids to send to college might benefit," said one student, shrugging his shoulders.

Furthermore, some expressed cynicism over the college's relations, present and future, with its neighboring areas beyond Flatbush. "It could change a lot around the college, but if you look down that way..." said one pedestrian, pointing south down Nostrand Avenue, "...I don't think it's going to do much for anyone."

# CUNY Goes Global: Stories of Studying Abroad



Alexa Marshall and a group of friends participating in BC Study Abroad in China program. / Courtesy of Xenia Hestermann

"Being a participant of the BC Study Abroad in China was one of the most enriching experiences in my life and definitely the highlight of my college experience. While in Nanjing, I attended Shaping of the Modern World classes, which were taught by Professor Fred Huang. Professor Huang truly enhanced my understanding of China by discussing the nation's role in global history. He also encouraged students to visit the Nanjing Massacre Memorial Hall and Jiming Temple so that we could gain a greater perspective of China's past and current culture. Being his student helped me realize my passion for eastern philosophy which motivated me to pursue philosophy as a minor after returning from the trip. As a senior, I can recall many moments when college has been stressful, however, one thing that continuously inspires me to continue studying is a statement Professor Huang made on one of my written assignments. He wrote: 'You are a very thoughtful student.' That statement means so much to me, as a philosophy student and as a young person trying to find her way in the world. I truly recommend that every student go on a study abroad trip before they graduate because the experience will not only connect you to another culture but also it will foster a greater connection yourself."

**-Alexa Marshall,**  
psychology major



The Great Wall of China. Abdelrahman visited this on her trip to China. / Creative Commons

"If you were to tell me 10 years ago while sitting in my middle school history class learning about Confucius and the Great Wall, that somehow I would be privileged enough to go to China, I probably would have thought you were joking. And yet here I am, two years later, with bountiful memories, plentiful stories, and a group of friends I am glad to call my family. College is meant to be a learning experience, and as cliché as it may sound, I fully believe it to be true. If you are worried about financially not being able to study abroad, don't be. I can attest that doing so was an experience no dollar can truly ever amount to. It was in the nights in a foreign land staying up late with my fellow classmates and talking about anything and everything that I knew I was at home. Though I just finished paying off my trip to China, the Furman Fellows Program helped me with a large sum of the trip and I could not be more grateful. The resources on our college campus are plentiful if you look. If you are considering studying abroad, or even staying at home I suggest you make the most out of any experience you have, truly these years of our lives shape us into who we ideally want to become as individuals so it is crucial that we make the connections we do now so we can say we did later. Looking back I wouldn't change a thing, and to me that is priceless."

**-Mysa Abdelrahman,**  
biology major



Phoo Kyaw sees this panoramic view while abroad in China, thanks to the assistance of the study abroad services. / Courtesy of Xenia Hestermann

Since China is slowly becoming one of the top tourist attraction places to travel, I decided to give it a go this winter. Out of all the five cities I visited, the most memorable one was Nanjing, mainly because I stayed there much longer than others, which gave me a chance to explore more around the city and talked to local people. Studying abroad was something that I never thought of doing in my entire life. However, after finishing the program, I came to realize that studying in a place where the culture is totally different would be an important and wonderful experience for everyone."

**-Phoo Kyaw**

"My time spent in India was a unique experience in my educational path. Even as I'm removed from our travels to Jamkhed, Maharashtra, India, I find it difficult to fully express the appropriate words to describe my time abroad. Our Brooklyn College faculty-lead program was nothing short of awesome, incredible, educational, eye-opening, perspective-changing and truly transformative. ...We studied Bryan Keane's experiences in India included the work of the Village time working with the Comprehensive Rural Healthcare Worker and Health Project (CRHP). / Courtesy of Xenia how they have changed



the health outcomes with the help of the Comprehensive Rural Health Project (CRHP). CRHP opened their campus to our student group and served as our hosts and additional educators as we took an ethnographic look into the Indian way of life and the disparities that are present. Through anthropology, we were able to study a global health perspective as it relates to gender inequality and socioeconomic status. I will be able to take this unique experience with me throughout my health related studies."

**-Bryan Keane,**  
health science major

# A Survivor's Story Continued

"Mom don't go," Wechsler pleaded every evening. Risking death, her mother would sneak a rotten potato or tomato from the kitchens. "If I don't go you will surely die of starvation," her mother would reply as she embarked into the night. "My mother gave birth to me every day, she put her life on the line for me," she said.

Death lurked at every corner at Auschwitz. A swift movement of Dr. Mengele's finger to the right or left is all that stands between death or life - until the next day's selection. Interweaving of death and life cemented a fear into a prisoner's psyche that remained after liberation. Wechsler's parents miraculously survived and reunited after liberation, but their

upwards for reference as she explained her memories to students. She became the child of Auschwitz when she described waking up next to deceased bunkmates and turned looking towards the cadaver. When she articulated being tattooed by the numbers 8-8-9-8-7, she exposed her forearm to the audience and glanced down at it as she did when those numbers penetrated her flesh one after the other on her first day at Auschwitz.

As she recounted the amputation of her mother's infected finger, Wechsler put out her ring finger and looked through her mother's eyes at an external apparition of her younger self. She winced as she described the amputation, and then said "her

color changed but she looked at me and said 'it didn't hurt,' but I knew it wasn't true. I knew on that day that they cut out her heart."

Wechsler never deviated from her calm and sweet demeanor when she recounted her story. A computer science student, Omar Youssef, during

the question and answer session walked towards her and said "the way you carry yourself is beautiful, the life is radiating off of you."

"You can do anything you put your mind to, God forbid you're on drugs or you're fresh and a pain in the neck, you can change it," she said. Her message resonated with students and left them feeling uplifted and emboldened. "Her experience shows me how to have hope," said Alex Trim, a film studies major.

Taken aback by the speech, Mohadi Hasan, a Muslim student, began to think about his Bukharian-Jewish grandfather. After pushing himself past his nerves, he decided to ask his burning question, "how do I embrace my Jewish side?" Mr Hasan's Jewish grandfather was located on the edge of the German frontline. "If the war hadn't ended when it did I might not be alive today." Indeed, if the Third Reich's borders expanded a little further, Mohadi's

grandfather may have ended up as a passport on the table.

"There are millions and trillions of stories that we will never get to

**"Her color changed but she looked at me and said 'it didn't hurt,' but I knew it wasn't true. I knew on that day that they cut out her heart."**

**-- Hanna Wechsler**

know, and in comparison to theirs, my story is a picnic," she said. "If you ever hear someone on campus denying the Holocaust speak in nice language, you disarm them by being more human than them." Wechsler requested that the students remember what the woman with an accent and a number told them.

Youssef commented, "there are not so many survivors left. I want to carry the torch to the next generation."

# Thesis Film Spotlight: Shadowstar Returns

By Dominick Famularo  
*Columnist*



Filmmaking is a wild process, and James McKenzie offered an interesting perspective on

how he went about creating his thesis film, Shadowstar Returns. Inspired by the daringness of Jordan Peele's, Get Out and the wildly imaginative storytelling of Marvel superhero films, McKenzie chose to tell a story that plays with reality based in fantasy.

Shadowstar Returns takes place in a nondescript urban neighborhood, with a slight twist; this neighborhood, once watched over by the masked vigilante, Shadowstar, has now since been abandoned. This short film follows Kieran and his best friend as they choose between being the hero, and doing the right thing.

When in the writing process, McKenzie had two central questions on his mind: "who are these people, and why do they make these decisions?" From a writing perspective, there couldn't be two better questions to ask. Answering these questions in every scene, in every line of dialogue that you write, will

show you the story your film is trying to tell. With a love and admiration for the amazingly successful Marvel movies lately, McKenzie quickly found where he fits in as a filmmaker. "I wanted a super movie, that tackled real life topics." He wanted something fantastical that grounded in reality, and that's exactly what he got.

Shadowstar Returns works on many levels. The storytelling is remarkable, the editing is engaging and the shot composition, as with much of McKenzie's work, is visually stunning. McKenzie mentioned that he "feels a social responsibility to talk about things as they are," and that couldn't be more clear throughout this film.

McKenzie had been brewing this concept for years, and exactly one year ago today he had wrapped his production. In creating this short film, McKenzie wore many different hats, balancing carefully his role as a writer, director and editor.

Creating a film is a tremendously collaborative project. "As a director, you have to recognize the strength of everyone around you," he said. After watching creative input flow in from cast and crew, the feeling of making something together with other creative people overcame him. "It's not just about me, it's



Shot from Shadowstar Returns.

about the project," McKenzie said with a laugh. We talked about how amazing it is to see a project come to life. From the inception of an idea, to the color correction (which he did himself) the film would have never been possible without everyone who contributed.

Besides his work as a renaissance man on his thesis film, McKenzie is also well known in the Film Department as a remarkably talented cinematographer, having worked on many different student films.

Shadowstar Returns will feature at the Brooklyn College Film Festival and then will make its run

around the festival market. McKenzie is eager for audiences to see his breakout short film, and believes that the Shadowstar Returns story is far from over. Be sure to catch the screening of this thesis film, along with many others on May 31 at the Brooklyn College Film Festival.

To keep up with the film, and to contact James McKenzie about this project, or others, check out Shadowstar Returns on Facebook.

For questions, comments, concerns or just to chat, email me at DomFamularo@icloud.com or find me on twitter @FamularoDom.

**My father would wake us up screaming every night, 'the Germans are coming to kill me,'"**  
**- Hanna Wechsler**

## Do you want to write like a King?

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[KingsmanBC@gmail.com](mailto:KingsmanBC@gmail.com).

# The Kingsman

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### -END OF SEMESTER EVENT-

Join the Kingsman staff, faculty, alumni and fellow journalism students to celebrate another great year of student reporting.

Thursday, May 11  
6 - 10 pm  
Maroon Lounge, 6th Floor, SUBO

# BROOKLYN COLLEGE SPORTS

THE VOICE OF BROOKLYN COLLEGE SINCE 1950  
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Tuesday, May 2, 2017

## Men's Tennis Team Eliminated in the First Round

## Softball Team Comes up Short in Season Finale



Men's tennis loses in first round. / BC Athletics

By Israel S-Rodriguez  
Sports Editor

The Brooklyn College men's tennis team ended their season Friday afternoon, losing on the road to the fourth seed Lehman College, 5-1, in the quarterfinals of the CUNYAC postseason. Entering the playoffs as the fifth seed in CUNY, the Bulldogs finished with a 4-9 record and 2-3 in conference play, Lehman advances to the semifinals to go against the top-seeded Baruch College.

Lehman made it a clean sweep in singles competition as Jeffrey Lecitona, Won Sik Park and Brian Persuad picked up victories over Brooklyn's Samuel Meyerovich, Chevaughn Mattis and Travis

Burge.

Looking to come back from a singles sweep the Bulldogs only hope in doubles competition was to make it a sweep of their own. Michael Dozortsev and Julian Calame-Mars would pick up an 8-5, victory for Brooklyn over Lehman's Michael Forte and Jeffrey Lecitona. Although things weren't the same in the second game for Brooklyn, Lehman's Richard Williams and Won Sik Park picked up an 8-1, win over Brooklyn. The Bulldogs once again came up short in the third game losing 8-2, in their final doubles competition of the season.

By Israel S-Rodriguez  
Sports Editor

The Brooklyn College softball team closed out the regular season on Friday in a loss against non-conference opponent Purchase College, 0-8 in game one and 3-13 in the second game. The Bulldogs finished the regular season with a 6-24 overall record, and a 2-10 CUNY record.

In the first game Purchases starting pitcher, Nicole Fortuna, was on her A game and never seemed to cool off through five innings, allowing only two hits by the Bull-

dogs and not walking a batter. Bulldogs catcher, Shakira Feliciano and infielder Brianna Preston were the only two batters to each hit a single. The Panthers opened up the first inning by scoring two runs, Brooklyn on the other hand went scoreless. The visiting team built a bigger lead in the third inning, scoring six runs to bury Brooklyn in game one.

As game two began Brooklyn once again found themselves down early, as Purchase scored four runs at the

top of the second inning. Although this time around the Bulldogs answered with a run of their own, as Brianna Preston hit an RBI single allowing Breanna Maresca to dive into home base. Trailing 7-1, going into the bottom of the fifth inning, shortstop, Anna Curran, would get things going for Brooklyn when she was hit by a pitch moving her to first base. After second baseman, Nicole

Rose, hit a two-run homerun to cut Purchases lead to four. Brooklyn's comeback was short lived as Purchase would open up the sixth inning by scoring three more runs to extend their lead to

seven. The Bulldogs went scoreless in the sixth inning, and come the seventh inning the visiting team would finish the game off by scoring another three runs to hand Brooklyn their final loss of the regular season.

Brooklyn will enter as the 6th seed in the upcoming CUNYAC Championships First Round, which is set to begin Wednesday at 4:00 p.m.

### 6-24 overall record

# Upcoming Athletic Events

 <p>April 24, 2017 / 5:00 PM / Recap Softball at Lehman College <b>LOSS</b> 2 - 10</p>	 <p>April 28, 2017 / 6:00 pm / Recap Softball vs Purchase College <b>LOSS</b> 3 - 13</p>	 <p>April 25, 2017 / 7:00 pm Softball vs College of New Rochelle</p>
 <p>April 22, 2017 / 2:30 pm / Recap Softball vs Hunter College <b>LOSS</b> 2 - 11</p>	 <p>April 28, 2017 / 4:00 pm / Recap Softball vs Purchase College <b>LOSS</b> 0 - 8</p>	 <p>April 25, 2017 / 5:00 pm Softball vs College of New Rochelle</p>
 <p>April 22, 2017 / 1:30 pm Men's Tennis at Lehman College -</p>	 <p>April 28, 2017 / 6:00 pm / Recap Men's Tennis at Lehman College <b>LOSS</b> 1 - 5</p>	 <p>April 25, 2017 / 4:00 pm Men's Tennis at Lehman College -</p>
 <p>April 22, 2017 / 12:00 PM / Recap Softball vs Hunter College <b>LOSS</b> 0 - 14</p>	 <p>April 24, 2017 / 5:30 pm Softball at John Jay College -</p>	 <p>April 25, 2017 / 5:00 pm Men's Tennis at Mount Saint Mary College (NY) -</p>
 <p>April 20, 2017 / 6:30 pm / Recap Softball at Fairleigh Dickinson University-Florham Campus <b>LOSS</b> 0 - 8</p>		 <p>April 24, 2017 / 7:00 pm / Recap Softball at Lehman College <b>LOSS</b> 3 - 14</p>