

Scepter

The Students' Voice

Kingsborough Community College

FEBRUARY 2021

The City University of New York

**The Hill We Climb by
Amanda Gorman**

Words that Awoke a Nation

3

Racism And The Pandemic

*The Impact of Racism
Against Asian Americans
During COVID-19*

4

Student Profile:

Saul Alan Fuentes Reyes

A Light In The Darkness

8

What To Expect From The Biden-Harris Administration? *High Hopes for the New Team in Washington*

By Chelsea Lliguichuzhca



After a buzzing and controversial election in 2020 between Former President Donald J. Trump and Current President Joseph R. Biden Jr. finally concluded with the inauguration of President Joseph Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris. President Biden, at 78 years old, makes history as the oldest U.S. President, while Vice President Harris demonstrates diversity in the U.S. by being the first woman of Jamaican American and South Asian descent. We are now turning to the major question: What should we be expecting these upcoming days, weeks, months, and years from the Biden-Harris Administration? Current pressing concerns include the COVID-19 pandemic, misinformation and disregard of science, the environment, the economy, racial inequalities, just to name a few.

Here is what to expect from the Biden-Harris Administration:

The COVID-19 Pandemic

As the United States tops 25 million cases of COVID-19 with a record of 416,925 deaths, according to NBC News statistics, Melissa Hawkins, Director of American University's Public Health Scholars Program, the Biden-Harris Administration's top priority is to overcome this COVID-19 pandemic. She suggests five steps to take: 1) increasing testing capacity, 2) investing in a Public Health Job Corps team to serve with local contact tracing and community-based aims to protect at-risk populations, 3) calling for nationwide mask mandate, 4) increasing the production of personal protective equipment (PPE), and 5) supporting the

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to provide guidance in confronting this pandemic. As President Biden expressed the day after his inauguration, "We didn't get into this mess overnight, and it is going to take months to get it turned around". As Maria Quizhpi a current Home Health Aide, age 57, expressed, "This is a first step towards recovery after millions of people within the United States have lost their lives or loved ones, I can only imagine that the plans of the Biden-Harris administration will provide for everyone in the United States regardless of status". In all, this is to protect the and support families, small businesses, first responders, and caregivers at putting the lives of people in the United States as the first priority, according to the Biden-Harris Plan to Beat COVID-19.

Science

According to Terry Davidson, Distinguished Professor of Neuroscience, "[President] Joe Biden emphasized that his administration would "choose science over fiction". As a result, from the Biden-Harris Administration we can expect a renewed reliance on the advice of scientists and public health experts in order to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and "to restore the reputations of the Center for Disease Control and the Food and Drug Administration, and to reverse restrictions that have made the United States a less attractive place for students and researchers from other countries". Due to the results of the 2020 election where "over 70 million voters supported a president [Former President Trump] who delivered almost daily hammer blows to the credibility of science

and repeatedly mocked and rejected the advice of his own science advisers" it is now more vital than ever in "departing from past prohibitions against mixing science and politics, prestigious science-based organizations now argue that to reverse this trend, it is crucial for scientists to publicly stand for evidence-based knowledge and against misinformation[incorrect or misleading information]", writes Patty Housman, Assistant Director of Communications at American University. By restoring the integrity of Science, a bigger picture can be painted showing that Science can restore hope. As Dr. Homar Barcena, Honors Program Director at Kingsborough Community College emphasized, "Science must not exist in a vacuum. The pandemic has shown us that scientists can play an influential role in shaping the public response in times of crises, including in policy-making". How will the Biden-Harris Administration get started? The administration plans on restoring and increasing funds towards science initiatives such as the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), just to name a few, states Alice Sukhina, Ph.D candidate in the Microbiology, Virology, and Parasitology program and a chair of the Science Communications in the Penn Science Policy and Diplomacy Group. It is more necessary than ever to confront trusting "science over fiction". Additionally as Dr. Barcena expresses, "It is also important that the public understand that science is not static, hypotheses need constant testing and verification, often at a speed that is inconvenient for politics. It is often more difficult to change people's minds when new evidence comes to light".

The Environment

Climate change has been an issue that has been around long enough. Based on Stephen MacAvoy, Professor of Environmental Science at American University he strongly emphasizes the Biden-Harris Administration view climate change as a real-world issue that cannot stress enough the national security risks, health risks, and environmental justice issues that come along with climate change. While addressing climate issues is a controversial topic the Biden-Harris administration ensures "there are methods we can protect our environment without harming the economy. Free market innovation, not government taxation or heavy-handed regulations, is the best way to deal with climate change", says Senator John Barrasso of Wyoming. While, under the Trump administration weakened the authority and regulations of the Environmental Protection Agency(EPA) the current administration plan on returning and increasing the regulations of the EPA.

Editor-in-Chief
Kayla Sherald

MANAGING EDITOR
Maggy Pasho

PRODUCTION EDITORS
Ksenia Kostelnyy
Yumika Tsukada

BUSINESS MANAGER
Nastasia Gorea

STAFF WRITERS
Chelsea Lliguichuzhca
Andre Rickman
Ksenia Kostelnyy
Maggy Pasho
Lizbeth Garcia
Steven Castro
Sara Bree
Emily Liu

Director of Student Publication and Advisor
Helen-Margaret Nasser

Office Manager and Production Advisor
Robert Wong

Student Publications College Assistant
Kenly Dillard



Scepter is a publication of the students of Kingsborough Community College. This is not a college publication, therefore, the college is not responsible for its contents. All articles in Scepter remain the sole property of Scepter. To obtain reprint permission, please contact the editors. Scepter welcomes letters to the editors and opinions from the entire Kingsborough Community.

2001 Oriental Boulevard, Room M-230, Brooklyn, NY 11235
Phone: 718.368.5603
Fax: 718.368.4833
scepterpublications@gmail.com

Letter From The Editor

In a period where our country has found itself divided over issues setting precedent over what specifically makes us different, it is essential that we recognize and remember what makes us the same. Our skin runs along the infinite spectrum of shade but still, all of our blood runs red. The United States of America was founded on the basis of freedom for all, establishing inalienable rights for each and every one of its citizens.

Though it will never be forgotten and cannot be mistaken that the very soil we live out our freedoms upon comes at the prices of so much bloodshed, we must all recognize that resolution isn't met by finger pointing, accusations, and victimhood. It comes from self-reflection, honesty, and compassion for our fellow man.

During 2020, most of us were introduced to something we've never experienced in our lifetime. It's unearthed the deeply seated trauma and anger of facing oneself and one's identity to the world. We were cornered into a reality void of weekend escapes to the countryside, strolls on isolated beaches, and simple walks in the park. We were met with the possibility of our lives never being the same and having to plunge ourselves into the unknown of the "New Normal."

Where we recognized life as having some meaning and certainty - knowing that the L train will be rerouted due to construction, we will run late to an upcoming meeting due to traffic Uptown, and we have leave early to get good seats in lecture - we are now made to find comfort in the unknown and officials who we trust to have our best interests in mind.

Reality is constantly being bended and mended and bended again. What's the truth? In a time of so much unrest and tension, where do we find the truth? The national news channel that's proven its bias and will remain as such as long as it doesn't get its way? The grocer at one's local market? How about that "crazy" on the downtown train who always seems to drink his cup of coffee every day at 7:31 a.m. on the dot?

Before 2020, we had some confidence that some things just don't happen. And again, the year has taught us that we just have to wait two more months to be thoroughly surprised. It was the year of the Great Unknown where every month held a theme to quickly be outperformed by the next.

But what happens when we pass the point of being absolutely tired of it all? When we've just about had our fill of this thrilling sequel that is life and just want to breathe?

I found that the best remedy to the chaos that is life is to... turn off your technology. Try it sometime and you will find that life is quite peaceful, not knowing what is happening every second of the day in every single corner of the Earth. You will also find that the opinions of a multitude of unknown faces online gradually fades... When they're not the ones you're seeing every day.

Instead of plugging in to refuel on the latest "news", unplug to recharge on life.

Sincerely,
Kayla Sherald
Editor-In-Chief



JOIN ODYSSEY

Odyssey, Kingsborough's yearbook, is looking for graphic designers and photographers. If you are a Kingsborough student and are interested in photography and/or graphic design, please talk to us in M230.



The Hill We Are All Climbing Encouraged by Amanda Gorman Words That Awoke a Nation

By Ksenia Kostelnyy

Although we all come from different backgrounds and have very different views on politics, we were all waiting for the new president's Inauguration day. But there was someone who instantly became a legend after that day. Her name is Amanda Gorman, young African American poet. Her poetry was bright, encouraging and breathtaking. The poem "The Hill We Climb" touched everyone's heart.

In her poem she speaks about the nation as one whole living organism that has feelings, grows and hopes. She reflects on last year's events without naming any of them and calling any names. In fact, she was having trouble completing it, but it was the night of White House riot on January 6th, when she finally found all the right words for America as a united country.

*"We've learned that quiet isn't always peace
And the norms and notions
Of what just is
Isn't always just-ice..."*

She is urging all Americans to take action and to try to make changes to the country we live in for our children and grandchildren, and many generations to come.

*"It's because being an American is more than a pride we inherit,
It's the past we step into
And how we repair it..."*

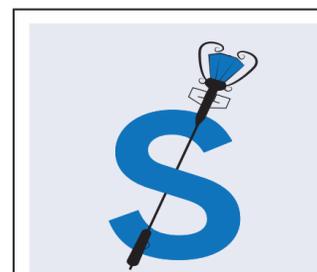
Democracy has always been one of the things to characterize the United States and there were very different times in history when it was nearly impossible to achieve, but Gorman is not losing her hope and encourages us to fight for it as for many other rights that we have.

*"But while the democracy can be periodically delayed
It can never be permanently defeated
It is true
In this faith we trust..."*

*"If we merge mercy and might,
And might with right,
Then love comes our legacy
And change our children's birthright..."*

As a first-generation immigrant from a country that is very far from democratic and never been such, I was very touched by this recital. It was not only what she read, but how, as well. Every word of this poem was meant to awake the hearts of Americans and to give them hope for a bright and peaceful future. She is both, powerful and kind. And the final lines of this incredibly beautiful poem are something that every person should remember and quote every day of their life because of the inspiring and deep meaning of it not only for the whole country or even the whole world, but also for everyone's personal lives and achievements:

*"For there is always light,
If only we're brave enough to see it
If only we're brave enough to be it"*



JOIN SCEPTER, BE PART OF OUR TEAM!

Scepter is always recruiting new team members to contribute to monthly editions of the paper. If you are a Kingsborough student and are interested in writing, photography, layout design, or copy editing, talk to us in M230. You can also email your opinion or letter to the editor to: scepterpublications@gmail.com



Photo by Haruka Sakaguchi

CAMPUS NEWS

Ready to Transfer?

CUNY or Private - What To Start Considering

By Maggy Pasho

Are you planning on transferring to a four-year college after Kingsborough? Many community college students utilize two-year schools as stepping stones to become a part of a Bachelor's degree program. Kingsborough is especially aware of this as this school prides itself in being, as stated on the school website's mission statement, "respon[sive] to the needs of its diverse community by offering high quality, affordable, innovative, student centered programs of study that prepare graduates for transfer."

The support and resources within this school is tremendous and should absolutely be taken advantage of. However, only you are responsible for your preparation to transfer and what you should do to ensure a seamless transfer process can be affected by whether you're applying within the CUNY system or to private schools.

So, what can you do? Well, it depends. Most of the work is doing the research on what is required of you for whichever institution and major you want to go to and abiding by that once you actually apply. Marina Kamenetskiy, an advisor with ASAP which is a program that "helps students earn their degree as quickly and effectively as possible, through a required full-time study, comprehensive cohort advisement, and career development services" is someone who has helped many students through the transfer process.

Speaking of the transfer application, Kamenetskiy says "it is like the application you completed to get into KBCC, but much of the information is pre-populated in the transfer form". Kamenetskiy adds that "students have found the application to be user-friendly and not as time consuming as one would imagine." That's very reassuring to hear, but how and what do you research?

Marina Kamenetskiy suggests "attending virtual tours and on-campus tours (when possible) is always a good idea." She adds, "Some items to take into consideration when researching schools: geography/location, tuition and scholarship opportunities, cost of living (dorming vs. living at home vs. renting), notable majors and faculty, school accreditation for special programs, and credit transfer. The more you know, the less anxiety you will feel."

Now that we've covered what you can do to prepare, let's start by talking about CUNY/PATHWAYS... What is it? Pathways is essentially a system comprised of the general education Common Core and transfer guidelines for students. Its purpose is to make transferring to other CUNY schools effortless because all of the CUNY schools require and offer the same courses. All of your credits at Kingsborough can transfer over to a CUNY four-year.

That is a big deal. Applying for a CUNY alleviates any amount of stress as it has the simplest application and debt-free experience. Kamenetskiy states "the CUNY Application contains general information about you along with a review of your academic record which includes all attempted and completed courses, and grades earned in your community college. You will also have an opportunity to include additional supplementary documents as needed."

What about a private institution? Well, besides

the application being a bit more additive and accessible via the Common App, private institutions have their own common core and transfer guidelines which can vary from school to school. What they all have in common however is their key difference to the CUNY system. They do not share a common core with Kingsborough. That means that the courses that you took, worked on, and received credits for here at KCC - may not be able to transfer over or be applied in the way you desire it to be.

As an example, if you have 70 CUNY credits, when applying to certain private schools, they would only accept 25 of those credits. Another example which is provided by Marina Kamenetskiy is, "one university may accept community college credit for an EPS 3800 course, enabling you to meet a science general education requirement. Another school, however, may only accept a biology or chemistry course for general education requirements."

Now, that sounds very stressful but it is possible to have your hard work be applied to your ideal school. Sholom is currently a Social Work major at NYU and prior Mental Health and Human Services major at Kingsborough. He was able to have most of his CUNY credits transfer over to NYU because he understood early on how credit transference works and he knew his school and major-specific guidelines and used that to prepare by utilizing his resources. "Every school, including CUNY schools, have Common Core, Flexible Core, and a major curriculum so you need courses that apply to that otherwise you're going to have to repeat a lot of courses. If you have a good advisor or you arrange yourself properly, you can arrange that your credits fit properly and that you'll graduate on time."

The unfortunate thing about credit transfers is that it's sometimes left to the private institutes' opinion on what courses may be applicable to their education guideline, which makes acceptable credits varied and hard to track. Sholom suggests that students should "email them [institutes] for what you should take. The most transferable class is M9, College Algebra so I took that. However, for my major it would've been better to have done Statistics instead. I should've asked for the transferrables in my major." He adds, "ask them what classes they want you to take and keep the documentation just in case so you can show them that you were going off of what they recommended for you."

If you want guaranteed credit transfer look at what "Articulation Agreements" Kingsborough has. Articulation Agreements are two schools contractually agreeing to create a "transfer pathway". A notable one that Kingsborough has is the NYU CCTOP (Community College Transfer Opportunity Program) - which Sholom also made great use of. If you would like to see what Agreements Kingsborough has, you can check out <https://www.kbcc.cuny.edu/transartic/index.html>

So, like everything that will be discussed, ensuring credit transference can be handled. However, there's one qualm that can't be ignored and that's the cost of tuition. CUNY schools are incredibly affordable while private institutions are not. Let's say you want to go to a private college but

also want to avoid student debt. What can you do?

Well, you can start by seeing what resources are available to you. Are you eligible for the Honors Program? They help support students with scholarships, applications, and more. Sholom, who was an honors student had this to say about the support "Yeah, I really utilized the Honors Program. Specifically, Luz Martin Del Campo did amazing. She really helped me out, still helps me out, and I still talk to her. She's written me a bunch of recommendation letters and helped me with my application process. Everyone in the Honors Program helped me." As does Phi Theta Kappa, a community college fraternity that strives to bring hardworking, like-minded people together. "There's a real community built off of the Honors Program and Phi Theta Kappa that really set me up for the future."

What are your grades like? If you can get your grades to a certain level, you may have more financial opportunities ahead of you. Do you need extra assistance? If so, that's totally understandable. As we continue discussing this, there'll be a focus on grades, but your current grades aren't a definition of your worth. The fact that you're here and trying is a good thing. "Struggling is a sign that you care about your future and don't have some of the answers you need. Reach out to an advisor for advice and recommendations on how to move forward! Following through on your classes during a pandemic has already shown your incredible character; so, let's harness that motivation and make a plan for the four-year" says Kamenetskiy.

You can get free tutoring within the school and reach out to your professors or advisors. When Marina Kamenetskiy was asked about being an ASAP advisor she said "More so than anything, I work with wonderful people who genuinely enjoy being the person in a students' corner, there to help them grow personally and academically." They want to help, don't be afraid to reach out. Also, join some clubs, build your resume, and employ all that is offered to you. You want to not only get financial assistance but show these institutions that you are worthy because you are valuable.

On one hand private colleges like the idea of having a diverse community - one with varying kinds of backgrounds. So, the idea of accepting transfer students is morally gratifying. On the other hand, some (not all) private colleges can prejudge because the idea of community college has such a bad stigma surrounding it. Have you ever felt embarrassed to tell certain people what school you go to?

In reality, community college is amazing and the fact that you're here is a good thing. However, there is a need to prove to certain colleges that you are beyond this stigma. Sholom said it best when he says, "You have to really justify to the school why you're an asset and not a liability."

Transferring to another school, regardless of whether it's CUNY or private requires a lot of time, effort, and preparation. No matter what you choose, just know you are capable of anything you set your mind to. Not only that, but you're not alone. There are so many kind people within Kingsborough who will stand by your side throughout. Sholom reminiscently states "I didn't get here alone. I had the people at Kingsborough supporting me."

Racism During the Pandemic

The Impact of Racism Against Asian Americans During COVID-19

By Andre Rickman

Repeatedly the world will experience massive outbreaks in the world, but also there is always a shift of blame going towards ethnic subgroups and xenophobia becoming normalized. Some examples included the swine flu which were blamed by Mexican Americans in 2009 to the 1918 influenza which was blamed by German Americans, now most recently Asian Americans are being targeted as being in a sense the super spreader or the origin of the corona virus. The president of the U.S (Donald Trump) is not making the racial relations between Americans and Asian American even better he was caught on many occasions saying the kung flu virus or "the Chinese virus," rhetoric like this seems to make it ok for his anti-Asian remarks which in turn make his camp or the people who feel the same exact way incite violence against Asian Americans. The basis of this article is to understand the grief pain and un-Americanness that these words and or actions do to marginalized groups especially the Asian community. By looking and reading stories by Asian Americans in society, we can try to make the world as more inclusive as we want it to be. The main takeaway from reading this article is that stereotyping or going based off assumptions can really damage people's psyche and question who they are as a person.

Some articles that would help make people understand the reason it is so detrimental to stop this xenophobia rhetoric would be the article Asian Americans reflect on racism during the pandemic and need for equality by Anna Purna. the basis of

this article is to understand why it is crucial for us as Americans to understand the struggle that Asian Americans go through during this pandemic and have a sense of compassion and trying to dismantle the xenophobia against them. According Anna Purna's article "Asian Americans reflect on racism during the pandemic and need for equality" a quote that sticks out would be by Justin Tsui, a nurse from Harlem, Ny who said "I didn't think that if he shoved me into the tracks, I'd have the physical energy to crawl back up" and "should go back to his country, citing the 2003 SARS outbreak as another example of "all these sicknesses" spread by "chinks" Asian Americans reflect on racism during the pandemic and need for equality.

When people read these quotes, it shows the pain that it does not matter if you went to a great college or that you work as a part of the medical team, people will still find ways to discriminate you based on your ethnic subgroup and find ways to make you feel like you do not belong or that you are the problem "mentality that for specifically Asian Americans feel hurt and disheartened by."

Another article that proves that no matter what your position in the world people will still find ways to discriminate against Asian Americans would be Weiner, Chloe, What it's like being Asian American candidates during a pandemic marked by racism." The basis of this article is to show that even if you are in a high power in congress you are not absolved from racist rhetoric. According to Chloe's Weiners article the most hurtful, inhumane quote would be for Yuh-Line Niou, a member of the New York State Assembly, passing out n95 masks at her local deli when a guy said

these words to her "You're the one who brought the virus here. I hope you die." When people hear these quotes from Chloe and Anna's articles, it shows how disgusting and evil some people for people that are just trying save people's lives and they want you to die or go back to your country it makes hard for Asian Americans to have their own lives and to live in constant fear of being killed by people who agree the same way trump does. These stories are giving those who do not think it is important a cultural awakening to injustice that Asian Americans face.

Some statistics that show that racism against Asian Americans is a huge deal would be Ruiz, G Neil, Tamir, Christine article, Many black and Asian Americans say they have experienced discrimination since outbreak. Some quotes from Neil and Christine article would be "About three-in-ten Asian adults (31%) say they have been subject to slurs or jokes because of their race or ethnicity since the outbreak began" and "U.S. adults (39%) say it is more common for people to express racist or racially insensitive views about people who are Asian than it was before the coronavirus outbreak".

An event was held in KCC that's in conformity talking for anti-racism by Vivian Hua her main points were how being Asian American in education wise was an exceptionally good thing but in respect for Asian Americans were concisely low," discrimination was yet astonishing what Vivian showed over "2,383 attacks in august alone and all age groups were impacted 30's were (28.6%) and the majority are of (70%) women which is really saying a lot that this is a real thing and needs to be dismantled.

Wellness Wednesdays

KCC Keeping Students' Spirits Up

By Lizbeth Garcia

Wellness Wednesdays, sponsored by KCC's Counseling & Health Services Center, teach students how to maintain their health and wellness while being on campus. KCC Wellness Wednesdays care for the health and wellness of the students at Kingsborough. Every Wednesday this past Fall semester, from 1 pm-2 pm, Wellness Wednesdays provided a live open session to KCC students to come in and talk about a specific topic that is the headline of the week.

Through this pandemic, Wellness Wednesday supported Kingsborough students providing the seven domains of health and wellness. Ilona Fridson is the coordinator of Wellness Wednesday and the Director of KCC's Wellness Center and leads the sessions along with health educator Maribel Mendoza and KCC nurse Dorothy Gale. These three incredible women not only bring a welcoming hand when entering Wellness Wednesday but bring the best interest of KCC students in mind and help us live more positive and brighter lives.

The last week of November, Wellness Wednesday's topic of the week was "Quarantine Weight and You: Not the Time To Stress." Quarantine has been very hard for many people. Especially with the gym being

closed for a while and still having limited capacity, it has been hard for people not to maintain a healthy lifestyle and a positive mindset. During the session, KCC health educator Maribel Mendoza gave different scenarios to how people tackle what they choose to eat. Hence the effect that it has on one's weight. Stress has been a key factor targeting people to eat more but less healthy. From the start of the pandemic, many people's levels of stress have risen. This can make overeating a custom. Increased levels of the stress hormone can cause a higher insulin level causing blood sugar falls and cravings for sugary, fast foods. "They can go from eating healthy one day then the next choosing the 20 piece donut box in the bakery section at the supermarket and not watching what they eat," says Ms. Mendoza.

This comes hand-in-hand with how one holds their mindset, too. Just because they want to lose weight and hold a healthy lifestyle, they also have to nurture their mental health. If they keep a negative mindset, they do not have the motivation to look upon their health and look out for themselves to be healthy and safe. "Because you can just stay along hoping for the best you have to take direct action is losing that

weight is your goal, the fundamentals get up early in the morning take a shower get breakfast and have a plan for the rest of the day so again it gives us purpose a direction into where we want to go," says nurse Dorothy Gale. The main points of being healthy and having a positive mindset are having a goal set up, planning out what are the key goals they want to accomplish and how they want to achieve those goals.

From attending Wellness Wednesday, students can get valuable advice on how to achieve a better lifestyle and hold themselves to have more self-love, and come out with a plan to have a better diet. Keeping in mind what coordinator Ilona Fridson told the group "the way he/she treats herself and talks to herself saying it's okay I will do what I can right now kind of gain weight it might not be in the long run."

A big take away from Wellness Wednesday is that no matter what, always have that positive mindset and make sure they treat themselves well because the body is a wonderful thing. From a healthy lifestyle staying safe and maintaining good comes good mental health. To learn about Counseling & Health Services, please visit: <https://www.kbcc.cuny.edu/counselingservices/distancecounseling.html>

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Looking For Employment? Here's A Snapshot of Available Job Opportunities.

AmeriCorps Distance Tutoring Coordinator, Full Time/Temporary (Job ID: 11308)

Employer: Reading Partners

In response to Covid-19, Reading Partners will implement a distance tutoring program, for which the AmeriCorps Distance Tutoring Coordinator will serve in collaboration with other AmeriCorps members and/or Reading Partners staff as a team in order to deliver the program. Responsibilities include but not limited to:

- Serve as the lead logistical and family, student, and volunteer engagement support, ensuring all parties are equipped to attend and successfully complete their sessions.
- Coordinate and coach tutors, communicating with, coordinating, and supporting families, observing distance tutoring sessions for student needs, and maintaining data systems related to distance tutoring.
- Provide direct technical support, as needed, to students and families while implementing the distance tutoring program.

Bronx Zoo Admissions and Guest Services - Temporary (Job ID: 11294)

Employer: Wildlife Conservation Society

Responsibilities: Handle all in-park ticket sales; validate tickets and admit entry into the park & various exhibits/attractions; actively promote and inform guests about our diverse assortment of premium products; process all transactions through the ticketing point-of-sale system.

Requirements: Ability to stand for long periods of time; ability to lift and/or move 20-50 pounds; comfortable being exposed to cold and hot weather conditions; good verbal communication skills; ability to work well within a team; successfully passing math test for cash register responsibilities.

For more information about these opportunities and more, please log in into your Symplicity account to apply:

<https://kbcc-csm.symplicity.com/students>

INTERNSHIP CREDIT AVAILABLE

If you have been offered an internship for the Spring Semester and would like to earn academic credit, please email careerdevelopment@kbcc.cuny.edu and let us know you are interested in the class.

COUNSELING

Let's face it, we are all dealing with tough times. We want you to know that the Counseling Center is there for you. You can speak with a counselor in the Counseling Center by calling 718-368-5975. At KCC our faculty and staff are making sure we are here for you all as much as we can be. Please do not hesitate to reach out!

CUNY Rising Alliance

Taking Up the Fight to Preserve New York's Higher Education System

By Steven Castro

A new deal struck by the CUNY Rising Alliance might just be the remedy we needed for preserving New York's higher education system.

On December 2, 2020, members of the CUNY Rising Alliance joined together for a live stream of over 400 CUNY faculty, students, and staff to discuss the new deal that will take effect in 2022. The deal has been deliberated upon for many years and is a great leap forward in establishing free tuition for all CUNY students, as well as other improvements to be implemented in order to salvage what is left of the system once the pandemic is over. Numbers indicate that CUNY registration has dropped by 5% in 2020 and, even with proposed free tuition in the works, students have not been able to shed a sigh of relief, until now.

"Now is time to be on the offensive, and not accept less but to fight for more, much more," said Andrea Vasquez, the CUNY Professional Staff's Congress (PSC) First Vice President. During the live stream, Vasquez spoke of the potential CUNY schools have to mold the minds of future graduates. One of the

benefits of community college is the opportunity for lower tuition. Now, with the new deal, free tuition will be phased in over five years. CUNY will receive 100% reimbursement for the annual cost of tuition for each undergraduate student.

"Because young men and women will lead us into the future, we believe public higher education is an institution that must be defended, we recognize it is under attack," declared Lucas Sanchez of City College. He expressed his passion for higher education during the live stream, explaining how New York's school system is under attack and vulnerable to extinction, alongside most businesses during this pandemic. With the new deal in place, CUNY schools will now increase the ratio of full-time faculty to students. These schools must maintain a ratio of 45 full-time faculty per 1,000 equivalent students. By 2026 that ratio will increase to 65 full-time faculty members.

"We are presenting a vision but also a demand. Not into saying we need to return to normal because normal for many of us was murder," Barbara Bowen, a faculty

member, emphasized the reality that many students were experiencing hardship before the pandemic. In an effort to bring more stability to everyone's mental state, CUNY will now hire more mental health counselors and academic advisors. Hiring full-time mental health counselors would allow CUNY to meet the International Accreditation of Counseling Services standards ratio of 1:1000 counselors to students. CUNY currently averages 1:2700, which does not give each student the opportunity to have received the attention they need and deserve.

As you can see, the new deal would benefit both students and faculty of the CUNY schools. These decisions have been in the works for a long time, but now people can truly look forward to a new transition in New York's higher education system. Overall, the goal of the deal was to invest in a capital renewal plan to address urgent issues of safety, accessibility, energy, capacity, and maintenance of CUNY buildings. Simultaneously, students will eventually be able to say that CUNY is now free for all in-state undergraduates.

Tutorial Support at KCC

What It Is and How It Is Working Remotely

By Maggy Pasho

Everyone has that one subject in school that is not within their skill set; you try, and you try but to no avail. However, have you ever become better at something you knew nothing about by figuring it out all by yourself? Of course not! That's why school exists and why this school offers extra assistance like access to free tutors.

Jun Ye, a math and chemistry tutor, is a 23 year old Kingsborough alumni and current Brooklyn College student. He recounts the time he was "walking in the hall [at Kingsborough] and I saw an ad next to the library. So, I called [the number on the ad]" and suffice it to say he never went back as he still works at the tutoring center to this day.

It's very clear when in a tutoring session with Jun Ye that he has a very good grasp on the subjects that he assists students in. Along with that, he is incredibly patient and never speaks down to you. His nature is kind and his passion for wanting to help shines through. Ye says "I feel like the best part of being a tutor is that it helps fellow students at Kingsborough understand the material better which gives them the passion to learn... it's really why I do this".

Now of course, there can't be a continuance without addressing the elephant in the room: the pandemic. The way students have become accustomed to learning has been flipped on its head. Professors have become less accessible (due to no fault of their own) in the way they were when pupils could go on campus, and classmates who are doing the same course work are almost unreachable for some. As Ye puts it "Now, tutoring is needed more than ever as certain resources that you had on campus aren't available anymore". On a side note, he also emphasized that there's many subjects you can take for tutoring such as "sociology" or "writing".

If you would like to access tutoring, you can sign up through inside KCC. It can be hard to find the motivation to push through, especially during these times. "You become detached from school itself...you're in class but you're not really there... [the pandemic] can deter your focus. The best way to deal with that, besides tutoring, is to reach out to your fellow classmates or professors as well... the tutoring center will be here as well to help if you're struggling".

2021 TAX VIRTUAL SERVICES FOR KCC COMMUNITY!

arc.kbcc@kbcc.cuny.edu | 718-368-5411/6713 | [@kbccaccessresourcecenter](https://www.instagram.com/kbccaccessresourcecenter)

Did you make \$68K or less? If so you are more than welcome to participate in this FREE service.

ARC is starting their 2020 Tax season waiting list. Taxes will begin on January 25, 2021. Once the Tax Season starts you will be contacted to receive a secure dropbox link. An IRS Certified Tax Preparer will contact you to complete your taxes remotely.

Documents Needed:

- Original social security cards for all family members
- Birthdays for all family members
- Government state picture I.D
- Wages - W2, W2-G, 1099 R, 1099 Misc
- 1089 - T - Tuition
- Childcare Expenses & Provider Information
- Direct Deposit - confirm routing & account numbers
- IP - PIN - IRS Identify Fraud assigned number
- Unemployment Statement - available online only
- Notice 1444 - Economic Impact Payment Statement
- Health Insurance 1095



Student Profile: Saul Alan Fuentes Reyes

A Light in the Darkness

By Steven Castro

Saul Alan Fuentes Reyes was born in the United States in 1997 at Lincoln Hospital in the Bronx, New York. His mother and father are both from Mexico descent. Although he has not always been fond of his culture, he has grown accustomed to its traditions. Such as making traditional Mexican dishes called Posoles, which is a kind of soup eaten when the weather gets cold. On Three Kings Day, he and his family prepare a circular bread called Rosca. His family is not catholic; however, Mexican culture is heavily influenced by Catholicism, so the holiday is still celebrated. Six years ago, in 2014, Saul visited Mexico and enjoyed every second of it. With the exception of the moments he needed to shower with a bucket. He was able to visit his grandparents farm and also was able to accompany them to the market every Monday.

One of the most exciting parts of his trip was when he visited a water park and instead of cold water, hot water was used that came from the root of a nearby volcano.

Saul was named after the religious figure Saul, the king of Israel because his father was religious. Pronouncing his name has always been a challenge for many people. The proper pronunciation is Saúl. Although born and raised in the Bronx, he lived in Brooklyn for a time with his previous wife and children. The lifestyle in Brooklyn was very different because unlike the Bronx where everyone mostly stays on their porch, Brooklyn residents are constantly on the go which was a difficult adjustment for him.

Saul's interest in journalism initially sparked during a conversation with his then girlfriend about the men's national soccer team. He elaborated on the team's lack of performance when it mattered most. Because of his passionate, detailed statement about the men's national team, his then girlfriend

recommended that he consider sports reporting and broadcasting. That idea sparked a new venture for Saul which led him to decide that he wants to be a Spanish network broadcaster for soccer. Although he feels his goal is farfetched, he felt as if he had nothing to lose and proceeded to begin his journey. Saul specifically applied to Kingsborough because of his pursuit for a journalism degree.

An advisor at his high school suggested Kingsborough because of its focus on journalism and once he was accepted, he had to decide whether to attend Kingsborough or BMCC. Like the right size shoe, Saul felt Kingsborough was the perfect fit because of its journalism program and what seemed like an amazing campus. Unfortunately, Saul has never visited the campus physically since the COVID-19 pandemic has forced remote learning from home. Before journalism, Saul had his dreams set on becoming an EMT and even went as far as majoring in EMT service one semester at LaGuardia. However, those dreams eventually faded away.

A typical day for Saul consists of him waking up, brushing his teeth, and getting ready for his day. During weekdays he is focused on schoolwork and hanging out with his current girlfriend. On the weekend he spends time with his kids by taking them to park to play and making sure they are fed and bathed before bed. In his spare time, Saul hangs out with friends by playing soccer at Pier 40 on the west side of Manhattan. In celebration of their amateur skills, he and his friends tend to stay out very late drinking even though they intend on having a calm night out. Sports are a huge passion in Saul's life. In fact, his competitiveness tends to trickle over into his own personal accomplishments where he is his own worst critic when he feels he underperformed or could have done something better.

Saul describes one his low points in the recent past where he and his now ex-wife were on different schedules which led to him developing a slight depression. Although it was a rough time for him and his family, he was able to use the power of music to cheer him up. Songs like "I" by Kendrick Lamar were able to show him the significance of loving one's self no matter what anyone thinks and helped him greatly in overcoming his depression. Kendrick Lamar is one of Saul idols who he looks up to because of who he is as a person and the appreciation of his craft. He admires the focus of quality in Kendrick's music as well as the ability to simultaneously live a discreet private life with his family. Like many other Americans, Saul was subject to losing employment due to the pandemic. Prior to that, he was a manager at a taco establishment called Dorado Taco. Currently, he is still looking for new work but is very optimistic everything will work out eventually. For the moment he is focusing on school and taking care of his kids.

Saul is very goal oriented and is working towards being able to have his own place for him and his two children. Although he has had minor setbacks like with the pandemic, he is adamant about achieving his goal in providing for his family. One of the happiest moments of his life was with the birth of his son. That day he realized that there was someone more important than himself which motivated Saul to provide the best upbringing for his children. When asked how he would like to be remembered by others he replied, "despite going through a lot mentally or physically, I'm always going to have a smile on my face & crack jokes. I could be on my death bed & pretend to die mid-sentence; I always like to make the best of what you have. I'd rather go out laughing & smiling then sad & bitter."



Generation Z and Suicide

The Impact of COVID-19 and Mental Health

By Andre Rickman

When it comes to mental health and us millennials gen z's we are known of the generation of change and normalizing certain conversations such as mental health which has become a big deal for us especially. Ever since co-vid 19 hit restrictions, have been mandatory we cannot see our friends as much and us worrying about how we are going to mentally be ok with this since we are so used to be around other human beings. Many mental health experts are trying to understand why suicide and gen z's mental health is not stable during this most troubling time. The basis of this article is to highlight major reasons why suicide is going up especially for millennials and try to empathize what struggles that they may be going through. Also, to acknowledge the pain or certain trauma that goes undetected when it comes to millennials me included to have in a sense a better understanding to why mental health is so important and to get certain people help when they need it.

Some of the reasons why it is so high would-be loneliness. An article that best supports this ideology would be the article, why generation z is the loneliest and how to help by Amy Sowder. According to Amy's article, why generation z is the loneliest and how to help one of the most heartbreaking quotes would be "We know everybody is different, but for a lot of us, "we need that sense of community and to have people in our corner who we can talk about our problems with", who we can help and who we can rely on, who won't abandon us." Why generation z is the loneliest and how to help. When people that struggle with

mental read this quote and say like' this is what I needed to hear "or finally, someone understands " , which shows that this is a real issue and it's not just a trend. Another article that may play into why suicides with millennials are so high would be the millennial mental health crisis by Olga Khazan. Another reason for suicide in millennial would be money in a sense. According to Olga's article it says, "Many Millennials who had their careers crippled by the 2008 recession are being flung into yet another economic downturn, just as they're supposed to be hitting their career peak". Quotes from both Amy and Olga's article show some of the most underlying conditions as to why millennials and suicide are important especially in covid pandemic where money is being cut and human connection can be in a sense restricted. The lack of human connection and making sure you are financially stable is hard in pandemic especially for, millennials during a social and economic recession according to Amy and Olga's articles.

Some statistics that show that suicide in millennials is a big issue is " One in four Americans ages 18-24 considered suicide within the past month, according to a survey completed by 5,412 adults between June 24 and June 30", Many generation Zrs, having suicidal thoughts amid pandemic by Tracey Romero. For the people that do not think it is important looks at these stats from Tracey's article have a culture shock as to what is going on and how to prevent less deaths amid an already stressful pandemic. More stats that show suicide among gen Zrs would be " At least one adverse mental or behavioral health

symptom was reported by more than one half of respondents who were aged 18-24 years (74.0%)" Mental Health, Substance Use, and Suicidal Ideation During the COVID-19 Pandemic United States, and gen z scored a (33% of felling the pandemic weight on their emotions and how the pandemic affected us would be at a 48%" according to NRC health. When people read all the stats from Tracey and the CDC its showing that suicide among millennials is important and needs to be addressed.

In conclusion, when people read this article, it will give the people that do not think it is a really a big deal or "why do they have to be depressed "a good look at their self and see that it is important. For some millennials that struggle with mental health we are going through a moment of emotional, warfare and economic dwindle, which plays a crucial factor I millennials committing suicide. For some millennials having someone that can relate to their struggles of being 19 or 21 now, is more comfort then some that was 19 ,30 yrs. ago, it gives these people a sense of 'finally someone gets it or "this what needed to hear. Repeatedly previous generations have the ideology of what are you sad for" and give these people to say" I may have my dream job and life but I'm not ok mentally at all and I need someone to listen." The more the naysays pay attention to stats and information like this and read articles like ("many generation zrs suicide thoughts rise amid pandemic") the more we can form a more conscious consensus for mental health for future generations after.

Career Development Virtual Front Desk

Monday - Friday, 10am-12pm
Monday & Tuesday, 2pm-4pm



*Have a question for us?
*Need to see a Career Advisor?

Visit our Virtual Front Desk at

<https://zoom.us/my/kccccareer>

Center for Career Development & Experiential Learning
careerdevelopment@kbcc.cuny.edu | 718-368-5115

RESOURCES

Career Coach

A free online tool for Kingsborough students and alumni. This site will help you find out about careers and the education required to get there. Not sure of where to start and want to find out how your interests relate to the world of work? You can take an online assessment that comprises of 6, 30 or 60 questions. Once you find potential careers that relate to your interests, you can look for target jobs in your area. Career Coach will give you the relevant data on wages, employment and training. It also provides a resume builder to help you get started with your resume. To learn more, please visit:

<http://kingsborough.emsicc.com/>



Why Do We Fat Shame Women? A Breakdown of Fat Shaming and Fat Phobia

By Maggy Pasho

What do Billie Eilish, Lizzo, and Adele all have in common? They're massive singers who have all been reduced to their weight. From daily mail incessantly making headlines about "Skinny Adele" doing various activities, to twitter making fun of Billie Eilish for "having a mid-30s wine mom body", and to everyone just berating Lizzo because she is a black plus sized woman that exists. Fat shaming is a prominent aspect of our new media culture. Why?

Well, in mainstream media there is such an emphasis on the way women look. Partly because it is reflecting consumerist ideals while also reinforcing them. All that consumers see are thin and light complected women so when they are presented with something other than that, confusion arises.

The act of learning behavior by observation (such as consuming advertisements) or mimicking said behavior (like repeating fat jokes from your favorite sitcom) while experiencing both negative and positive reinforcement, which affects the perception of one's gender identity is what sociology calls a cultural transmission of gender identity.

Jean Kilbourne, author of *Killing Us Softly*, discusses at length in her *Killing Us Softly 4* trailer about how advertising reinforces and perpetuates the idea that women are objects to be leered at. "Turning a human being into a thing is almost always the first step into justifying violence against that person"

But, like it was stated prior, this is also a reflection of society as it is an enforcer. Society thinks women are objects so besides justifying physical violence, we justify verbal violence, verbal violence like online fat shaming. So, when the justification of abuse is combined with American Beauty Standards, a lot of harm is caused to women. This harm isn't loud or external, it's insidious. It crawls around the depths of your mind, eating away at you slowly like a parasite until you deteriorate. In a general sense, thin bodies are angelized while the "other" is demonized in American Media. Why? Cause racism.

American beauty standards are Eurocentric and historically has its roots in white supremacy. Sabrina Strings, author of *Fearing The Black Body: The Origins Of Fatphobia*, states in an interview on NPR's shortwave, that the transatlantic slave trade "led to new articulations of what types of appearance we could expect of people by different races and also what kinds of behaviors". She goes on to explain what kind of logic

was used to distinguish this and what the purpose of it was. "Africans are sensuous. They love sex, and they love food. And for this reason, they tend to be too fat." She continues "Europeans, we have rational self-control. This is what makes us the premier race of the world. So, in terms of body size, we should be slender, and we should watch what we eat".

The purpose of this wasn't to necessarily push thinness as a means of racial superiority but rather to "have a mechanism for ensuring that we could recognize who was slave and who was free, right? And it was easy in the beginning of that slave trade; it was simply skin color. But as you might imagine after 200 years of living in close proximity, skin color no longer works [due to the fact that there were now biracial slaves]". Despite the fact that the transatlantic slave trade no longer exists, this set a precedent of villainizing bigger black women to push white women to be thin. Now we idealize thin bodies and oppose big bodies. You can see this in the cartoons attached to this article.

But wait, wHaT aBoUt pRoMoTiNg oBeSiTy. Many people argue that it's good to harass people about their weight because they don't want to support being unhealthy. After all, obesity is a serious issue and a prevalent one at that. So, yes obesity is serious but if you are that concerned for the health of the masses why don't you get off the internet and do something within medicine or government to decrease obesity rates rather than shame someone for possibly being unhealthy.

Having a bigger body doesn't always equate to having poor health, neither does being thin equate to prime health. According to separate studies done by Peter Katzmarzyk and Dr. Samuel Dagogo-Jack, black women can be healthy at heavier weights than white women (weights that may even be considered obese). The BMI (body mass index) doesn't consider the way fat may be distributed within different body types and how overall muscle mass may contribute to the rise of a person's BMI, specifically the body types common within different races and ethnicities. This is due to BMI being studied on primarily European subjects. Black women's body fat tends to be distributed differently than white women's body fat and black people in general typically have more muscle mass than white people.

These studies specifically touch on the difference between white and black women, but it goes without saying that it doesn't represent every single person

within these two groups. A white woman can be healthy with a heavier weight while a black woman can be healthy with a smaller weight. Everyone's body is different, there isn't an actual definitive line of what's a healthy or unhealthy weight.

In regard to being smaller, some people eat horribly and don't exercise but are able to remain thin because of their genetics, certain drugs (prescription and otherwise) can make a person thinner, or a person may lose a lot of weight due to being sick. Being smaller doesn't mean you're healthy and depending on the person and circumstances, being smaller can be very negative.

However, let's say having what you've decided is a bigger body does equate to having bad health. You shame them to get the message across that they should change. They chose to be obese so now they have to fix it. That is such a poor understanding of obesity in America. Obesity has many factors such as socioeconomic status, there are studies that link childhood trauma to obesity (which no one seems to consider), and genetics. The negative health benefits of obesity are overstated while the care for it is undervalued.

Losing a large amount of weight for an obese person is not only a physical challenge but a mental one. To overcome the obstacles within becoming healthier, your mind must be stable before your body is. How can obese people be capable of becoming healthier when society tells them they are anything but capable?

You don't care about health. You just don't find bodies that don't align with Eurocentric ideals attractive and want to use health as a justification to berate women for not meeting your standards. There is no justification for that. But, since women are portrayed as things in the media, its ok to complain if the product doesn't work the way you thought it did. Since there is a long history of vilifying certain body types and glorifying others, this is technically normal.

It's normal to be fatphobic and fat shaming is a byproduct of fatphobia. We all to a certain extent have internalized harmful beauty standards and reinforced them. We judge celebrities like Adele, Billie Eilish, and Lizzo all the time, don't we? Even if it isn't posted online. There has to be an understanding of why that may be, of recognizing the biases we hold, and how we perpetuate them. We can start by being more kind to ourselves and others.



The End of the Teen Era

Things to Learn in Your 20's and How it Impacts Adulthood

By Andre Rickman

When it comes to millennials turning 20 this year (myself included) everyone has their own opinions of their 20s. Some people are like, "your 20s are the best years of your life" while others say "it is the worst." Turning two decades old is an accomplishment in itself. It should be applauded and cherished. The more we look at turning and experiencing our 20s, there are some life lessons we as 20 year-olds should know about and try to practice in our own life.

The basis of this article is to understand the meaning of our 20s and what new knowledge we can use and their implications in our daily lives. Some of the life lessons in your 20s include being present, truly valuing our own happiness, and focusing on money management skills.

One of the most important lessons in your 20s is to be present. According to Pew Research, Aaron Smith and Monica Anderson said, "Some 78% of 18- to 24-year-olds use Snapchat, and a sizeable majority of these users (71%) visit the platform multiple times per day." They went on, "Similarly, 71% of Americans in this age group now use Instagram and close to half (45%) are Twitter users." When looking at these statistics from Pew, it shows that we, no matter the age, have a problem with being present.

One solution that can help us especially in our 20s be more present is basically just living in the moment. The ideology of living in the moment is just embracing the time you have now and not mentally exalting yourself for future worries when it is not the right time. According to Business Insider and Stanford Psychologist Emma Seppala, "living in the moment, instead of mentally racing toward the

future, is the key to happiness and success."

And the more we look at these quotes from Aaron Smith and Business Insider we are in a sense relieved because us in our 20s, we have this "go" mindset but it's okay to slow down a bit and savor in the atmosphere of the things that we have now and not give ourselves a mental breakdown over things we think we must fulfill right now.

Another life lesson we should learn in our 20s is to truly value our own happiness. We live in this day of expectations and so much pressure. We are supposed to do this that way or not be too selfish. "Some of the things that are so precious to us as individuals is our own happiness and what we do to achieve it", according to my nephew Chrisaun , 24. Additional noteworthy things Chrisaun has stated regarding our own happiness is to "separate from things or people that don't benefit you in a positive way" and "even though it may hurt to leave certain situations, it's better to leave now then regret it later." When hearing these quotes from someone that is in your personal circle, it helps you resonate with the pain of some struggle and incorporate that advice into your own life. Sometimes distance is essential to your own happiness and not for others because we as human beings struggle with that, myself included.

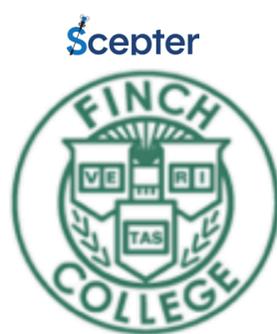
A family member would say "stay away from toxicity in your life" because it is only going to emotionally mess us up as people and keep us from cultivating our own identity. For the people that don't consider happiness as a big deal consider "What Makes Young People Happy?" written by Alex Grey. According to the article, "52% of 19-21-year-olds said they were happy as opposed to 68% of 15- to

16-year-olds" and "the other top-scoring factor was having good relationships with friends (91%) and family (92%)." The more we look at these quotes from my family member and Grey, the more these quotes emphasize what happiness means to many people, especially people in their mid 20s.

The last life lesson we should learn in our 20s is managing money. Repeatedly, people in their 20s, when it comes to finance, have this very "I need this thing" or "Time waits for no one" attitude. Articles like "How Your Money Habits Compare to People in Their 20s and 30s" would help. The basis of Jonelle Marte's article is to help people in their 20s understand how to navigate spending. "Only 1 in 3 workers under 35 are saving for retirement" and "89 % of people with advanced degrees work full-time, compared to 83% with a bachelor's degree, 61 % with an associate degree." The points regarding finances in our 20s show that we don't save much and very much depends on our educational level, especially what job we'll get.

As stated in Christopher Murray's "Budgeting in Your 20s: Why and How to Get Started", tracking your spending helps find areas for improvement so that you can spend less on things you don't need and put that money towards something better. Both Marte and Murray help highlight some of the reasons why those in their 20s need better money management skills and what we can do with the information they provided.

Despite all these new responsibilities ahead, our 20s are going to be okay. But we must remember: we must truly value our own happiness, be more in the moment, and lastly, have great money management skill. Then would we be set for not just our adulthood, but our entire life.



\$5,000 Scholarships for Community College Women Transferring to Any Four Year College

IN THESE DIFFICULT TIMES, WE, MORE THAN EVER, VALUE AND APPRECIATE, AND THANK FACULTY MEMBERS AND PROFESSORS WHO SUPPORT COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS.

\$5000 SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE TO

NEW YORK, NEW JERSEY & CONNECTICUT COMMUNITY COLLEGE FEMALE STUDENTS OVER AGE 22, TRANSFERRING TO ANY ACCREDITED FOUR YEAR COLLEGE

A \$5,000 grant to be used by a Community College woman entering undergraduate study at any accredited four-year college in The United States. The Scholarship is awarded in two segments: \$2,500 is awarded upon transferring to the four-year college and \$2,500 is again awarded when successfully entering the final semester of the four-year college.

For further information and an online application form see the website:

[FinchCollege.org](https://www.finchcollege.org)

<https://www.finchcollege.org/scholarships>

ATTACHED IS THE CRITERIA

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

**Lois M. Ziegler
Chair**

Finch College Alumni Foundation Scholarships

2020 Finch College Foundation Scholarship Recipients:

Kingsborough Community College to Yale University

LaGuardia Community College to Smith College

Essex County Community College to Stockton University

Norwalk Community College to Mt. Holyoke College

Queensborough Community College to Stony Brook University

Hudson County Community College to New Jersey Institute of Technology

LaGuardia Community College to New York University

Brookdale Community College to Columbia University

Kingsborough Community College to Smith College

Borough of Manhattan to City College

Talking About Teslas

One-on-One with an Insider

By Sara Bree

For quite a few years now we have heard much talk about self-driving cars hitting the market. Now, with the release of Tesla's newest model- Model Y, one may begin to wonder if all the hype and excitement revolving around driving a Tesla is worth pursuing. Altogether there are four different models: Model Y, Model 3, Model S- a luxurious roadster/ sports car and last but not least, Model X- a luxurious SUV. Model X is the most expensive, with doors that are not unlike the fancy-shmancy limousines whose doors open upwards. Plus, it's literally faster than a Lamborghini. Zacky Roth, from upstate New York, is the proud owner of a Tesla Model Y. Roth claims that his Model Y gives a smooth ride, has great tires, and excellent speed. However, the picture that was depicted by an individual from the business end of the spectrum, although smattered with positive attributions, took a totally unexpected turn. Sam, who works at a local car dealership in the area gave this journalist a few minutes from his hectic schedule to answer some questions.

Sara: So, my first question is: I don't see that many people driving Tesla's around here. Is there a reason as to why that is?

Sam: Well, there [are] a few problems. Firstly, they are very expensive and now they just made version 3 about a year ago and now they're leasing them cheap so you're gonna start seeing a lot of them. That's one reason. Number two is that people are scared about electric appliances there's no charging stations. Number three is Tesla doesn't tell you that in the winter areas you lose about a third of the battery capacity. They don't tell you that, right? So I don't know if people know that or not but it's not great to have that in the winter zones. California doesn't get so cold, not a problem. But over here, not so great. Number four is that insurance is very expensive. Most times you can't fix a Tesla. Nobody has parts with these electric cars being so expensive, so therefore the insurance is also expensive. Those are my theories as to why so far you don't see them. But they are strongly picking up.

Sara: So as far as the battery goes, it can be risky. And I guess it's also about location, especially since you mentioned the weather being an issue. There's no charging stations here? Does everyone have their own by their house?

Sam: By their house, yeah. There's no charging stations around here. I mean some garages in the city maybe? I don't know. I'm not sure because I don't have one but there's no superchargers around here which can be annoying for people. Maybe in Manhattan they have...they're popular, very popular in Manhattan.

Sara: More in the city?

Sam: More in the city but a lot of guys around here are starting to try it.

Sara: So it's starting to pick up. Would you say it's more comfortable to sit in a Tesla 3?

Sam: Not necessarily. The interior is actually not so good in a Tesla. The material is very boring, not so nice, nothing about it, very simple. It's not what draws people. The technology is phenomenal. It's a sharp, cool item. People go buy certain cars partly due to how it looks.

Sara: Status.

Sam: Exactly. They're looking more for status. Tesla is considered a cool status. It's a nice car, people aren't dealing with gas fees- but it's not so much that it's not cheaper to drive electric versus gas today.



Two dollars a gallon...

Sara: So it doesn't really make a difference.

Sam: It's close. No one's doing it for that unless the guy has solar panels on his roof and he thinks he's getting free electricity...okay he's actually saving a little bit of money paying premium for a car, but model 3 leases are pretty cheap.

Sara: So let me get this straight. Model 3 is cheaper, but the latest one that came out is model Y?

Sam: Correct. Y is a little bit of crossover, so it's more expensive. But Model 3 is the number 1 seller by far. That's their mass production car.

Sara: Do most of them more or less have the same features?

Sam: Very, very similar options. Extensive range is an option, self drive is a big option also although it's expensive.

Sara: Is self drive considered safe enough or is it still being tested?

Sam: So far the government has not approved it yet and they don't have it fully out yet. The full self drive- they've been promising that for a while- they have not been able to get that out yet, though they are trying, it's very difficult. The Cadillac system is much better than Tesla's as far as self drive goes, so there's good competition.

Sara: Do people actually trust self drive enough to actually use it or majority just drive?

Sam: With the updated version, it's very safe. Safer than a human being.

Sara: Oh, wow! That's scary.

Sam: Yes. It's very, very popular

Sara: Earlier you said that you can't really fix it. Does that mean that once a Tesla is damaged, that's it- kaput?

Sam: When one gets into an accident... if it's a minor accident okay you gotta replace this piece and that piece- there's a lot of availability for parts. Toyota Camry- half the car parts are made in China, not from Toyota.

Sara: So you can get whatever you want.

Sam: For very cheap. Tesla doesn't sell parts and availability stinks and they're not easy to fix. Sara: So the reason why availability stinks is because of not much of a demand?

Sam: Sort of like Apple- they control everything. Tesla is not as good at executing the distribution of

replacement parts as Apple is. So if you need a new iPhone screen- the junk one doesn't work- so if you want anything Apple, go straight there. That's what it is- it's just very expensive to repair a Tesla.

Sara: In the long run could getting a Tesla be a good investment?

Sam: No. So far not. I mean, investment is defined by what the value of the car is after X term, right? So the value of Tesla, it's let's say after 3 years which is typical. When you lease a car the typical term is 36 months- so 36 months of a Tesla whose battery depletes, the lifespan is not good. So after 3 years the value decreases. Why? The most expensive part of the Tesla is what?

Sara: The battery.

Sam: What happens to your cell phone battery after a few years?

Sara: You gotta get a new one because it drains out.

Sam: Tesla is no different. Sara: So it's basically the same exact system?

Sam: Exactly the same.

Sara: But more stronger and powerful?

Sam: Much better, but they have the same problem. When you have a vehicle whose battery is like a cell phone- wears down - it affects the value. So is it a good investment? No. Is it enjoyable, is it fun, is it sharp? Yea, and it's taking off, gonna get more and more popular.

Sara: I hear it's good for the environment.

Sam: That's the shtick, but it's not really the reason people are buying them 6 now...

Sara: So more the technology.

In the end, a couple of things can be taken from these two accounts. Firstly, there's so much more to a car than just looks. There's a price one pays with their own money, which can essentially cause what you drive to be a representative of your worth. Additionally, the fact that Tesla is a hard item to fix can be problematic, although there are an abundance of reasons to own one. Convenience, speed, and style are just a few. As for the rest of us folks who are Tesla or car-less, sticking to the typical transportation routine of walking, bussing, subway adventures and hitching rides with friends can work as well. But who knows? Maybe you, dear reader may just win it big and get a Tesla of your very own. Then you can see what the hype of luxury is all about straight from the driver's seat.

ENTERTAINMENT



The Owl House A Little Miss Perfect Show by Maggy Pasho

Want an adventure? How does traveling to a magical world with witches, demons, and pre-teen drama sound? Dana Terrence's *The Owl House* is the perfect show to watch to get out of your quarantine blues. Disney channel has been hitting the mark with its new era of animated shows since the creation of *Gravity Falls* (which Dana Terrence and other staff on *The Owl House* were involved in), with *The Owl House* being its most recent and game changing cartoon. This history making show should be revered in its smooth animation, fascinating world building, characters, and more.

The Owl House is about Luz, a young girl whose eccentricity wreaks havoc to those around her. She is very creative and rambunctious, but no one really seems to understand her and rather than help her control herself and create an environment where she can express these traits in good ways, she gets sent to a summer camp that's meant to make her conform to what society wants her to be. Fortunately for Luz she stumbles upon a portal to *The Boiling Isles*, an island in the *Demon Realm* that formed around the corpse of a Titan. There she meets Eda the Owl Lady, a malefactor witch who takes Luz in as an apprentice for magic.

Dana Terrence's show has a great message that both kids and adults can latch on to. The characters and the lore of the *Boiling Isles* are what keep you watching.

There is also good representation for the LGBTQIA+ community with Luz not only being bisexual but a bisexual girl who is Hispanic. You also have Amity who is a lesbian. This show made history by being the first Disney animated show to feature main characters who are members of the LGBTQIA+ community.

The writing is very consistent. Although there are a few episodes that aren't amazing, such as the first episode, its overall very well written and thought out. The animation is nicely done, and the production value is high. The voice acting is great, especially from Sarah-Nicole Robles as Luz and Wendie Malick as Eda. Speaking of Eda, she is one of the best characters on the show, along with King (a doglike demon who lives with Luz and Eda) who is voiced by Alex Hirsch, Amity (a girl that starts out as a school bully) who is voiced by Mae Whitman and more.

Some standout episodes are *Enchanting Grom Fright* for its character writing, a dance sequence that was beautifully animated, and advancements in the plot that this episode provided. *Understanding Willow* for its character development of both Amity and Willow (Luz's best friend). *Agony of a Witch* and *Young Blood, Old Souls* was the perfect finale for season 1. It was phenomenally written, the acting was on point, and the action scene in *Agony of a Witch* was knee buckling exciting.

The Owl House is a show made with passion. With superb writers, insane animators, there is not one loose end in the staff and crew- there is not one loose end in this show. This is a show that deserves to be watched and appreciated. For its representation, for its story, for its production, for its acting, for almost everything about it. Stream *The Owl House* on Disney Plus, you'll be glad you did.

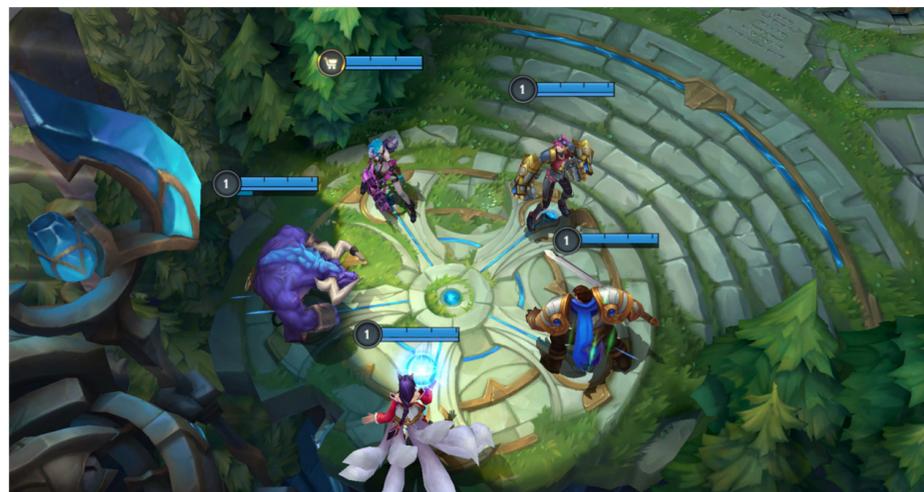


Spotify Premium for Students is here.



League of Legends A Video Game Bringing People Together

By Emily Liu



At the start of the game, the host announced "It's here that legends were made...the pinnacle of play, ten years in the making is here, right now. This is Worlds 2020. It's time to TAKE OVER". Even in the silence of the viewers' homes the energy was so intoxicating. It left the attendees with their hearts beating out of their chests. It's here, it's live, it's the 2020 World Championships.

Tensions are high, over 20 people are flanking all sides of the room. As they take their seats in respective spots and get ready for the E-sports tournament, the air seems to tremble with excitement. In the stadium, there are over 6000 people. It's the final push, last shot until the nexus explodes and they win or lose. You can see the beads of sweat forming at their foreheads, the anxiety is growing. "VICTORY!" It's the final win, and DAMWON wins the 2020 World Championship.

With the rising popularity of the gaming community, League of Legends needs to be included into the KCC ESPORTS. "League of Legends" is a 5v5

multiplayer online battle arena video game or MOBA match-up developed and published by Riot Games. League of Legends is a team-based strategy game where two teams of five powerful champions face off to destroy the other's base." as the official description on the League of Legends website says.

When someone outplays you in "League of Legends" it feels like the scene in the movie *Percy Jackson "The Lost Hero"* when he cuts off the hydra heads, and they promptly grow back with double the heads. It catches you off guard, and makes you feel bitter when you think you can win, but there's another surprise in store. With teamwork though, this can be avoided. If your teammate rushes to help you when you're in trouble, not only is it possible to escape with your life, but also to turn the tides in your favor.

A champion, Lux, the Lady of Luminosity is arguably one of the most popular champions. Some may even say she is "League of Legends" poster girl. Lux has many "skins" or costumes for sale. All of her

costumes have different themes, including armor, hair, weapon, and sometimes even face changes. One of her most popular skins, *Star Guardian Lux* resembles the outfits from *Sailor Moon*. With its vibrant theme and hot-pink color, many female players will undoubtedly be attracted to it. Another rather popular skin are the *Dark Cosmic* and *Cosmic* skins, with the *Dark Cosmic* skin showing the theme of a goddess turned bad, and cosmic a reflection of her original "goddess" look.

It is one of the biggest games with a huge fan and player base, as well as a large scale international competitive scene. It's one of the games with the largest follower/viewer base on Twitch, meaning it's popular and should be included in the KCC ESPORTS: NJCAAE Game Offerings. League has a big and popular fan base as it's been around for quite some time.

Although there are many games on the game offerings list that establish good teamwork, "League of Legends" is no exception. Yubo Kou and Xinning Gui, former students from the Department of Informatics, University of California, Irvine developed a research paper to discuss the key aspect of the game. In their work, they touched on several reasons why the game is so popular. "League of Legends" is almost entirely dependent on teamwork. "Players want to collaborate with strangers through communication and coordination," said Kou. It promotes good cooperation with others and observation skills. Even selecting a champion relies on some sort of team communication to make the game enjoyable, as well as winnable.

It is a game that's been around for a long time, with an ever-growing player and fan base. It's a perfect choice to include in the KCC ESPORTS: NJCAAE Game Offerings. League of Legends promotes teamwork, cooperation, and communication. It's also incredibly fun to play.

Not to mention, many schools already have "League of Legends" on their roster, so why can't we? As Gui said, "To achieve success, players must discipline themselves as well as influence their teammates."



The 2021 Vassar Exploring Transfer Program

The 2021 Vassar Exploring Transfer Program has successfully introduced community college students to the possibility of transferring to a four-year residential liberal arts institution. Students in the program are typically among the first generation in their family to attend college and are highly motivated academically. Through a five-week immersion in the liberal arts, Exploring Transfer enables community college students to imagine a broader range of academic opportunities than might otherwise have been possible. The Honors Program at KCC will provide tips on completing a competitive application.

Please consider applying for Vassar Exploring Transfer for the summer (virtual):

The program will run from June 18th-July23rd.

Each student will take two classes, two hours a day on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

The student applications are due March 8th.

The deadline for the letters of recommendation is March 22nd.

The entire program will take place virtually this summer 2021.

Each student provided with a \$500 stipend.

Applicants should have completed at least 24 credit hours of coursework beyond the remedial level at the time of application, and must have completed English 101, or its equivalent.

Priority applicants will be those students who have completed less than four semesters of community college work by June 2021.

We are seeking applicants who are academically high-achieving, first generation college students. We suggest students have a 3.0 GPA/ or higher. We also value resilience in the face of adversity, a strong work ethic and an open and inquiring mind.

Please let us know if you are accepted or placed on a waitlist.

You can also reach the Honors Office for any assistance or questions regarding the Vassar Exploring Transfer program at: honors@kbcc.cuny.edu

<http://eter.vassar.edu/>