Niaz Mosharraf has risen up to the Editor’s position in KCC’s award-winning newspaper, “Scepter.” His contributions to the college continue as the Managing Editor of both “Antheon” and “Odyssey,” as well as the Vice President of Leadership of Phi Theta Kappa. Mosharraf’s most notable achievement at Kingsborough is his ability to bring together a diverse group of talented students to collaborate on the greater goal of delivering noteworthy publications.

Making the best of the incredible opportunities offered in the Honors Program, and with the guidance of his extraordinary mentors at KCC, Mosharraf plans to graduate in Spring 2014 with a degree in Journalism and attend a four-year university to pursue a career in journalism and filmmaking.

In Kingsborough’s Nursing Program, Parsaram not only enjoys helping others in the health care sector, but also loves to collaborate and produce exceptional works of art and design.

As the current Production Editor of “Scepter” and the Editor-in-Chief of “Antheon,” she is responsible for the remarkable new look of the newspaper, and leads an expert team to deliver KCC’s award-winning Journal of the Arts. A member of Sigma Alpha Pi, The National Society of Leadership and Success, Parsaram strives to go on to an RN to BSN program at a four-year university and obtain her Bachelor’s Degree in Nursing.

However, she will continue to work on various print productions and design projects as she has found a great new passion for it through her number of works at Kingsborough.

ISP’s Salzburg Global Seminar Helps KCC Students Tackle Global Citizenship

By Niaz Mosharraf

The Honors Program’s participation in the Salzburg Global Seminar’s International Studies Program (ISP) provides students with one of the most prestigious opportunities at Kingsborough. It allows highly motivated and civically engaged students to be part of an once-in-a-lifetime experience to attend a seminar on global citizenship in Schloss Leopoldskron castle in Salzburg, Austria. There the students meet with their peers from colleges around the world to discuss international issues and possible solutions.

Twelve students are nominated each year after a rigorous selection process in which the applicants are evaluated based on their academics, extracurricular activities, civic engagement and their submitted essay. In the Spring 2014 Semester, the selected students then take the specialized honors course on Global Ethics designed by its instructor, Dr. Rick Repetti in order to prepare for the week-long seminar in Salzburg.

All the assignments in the course are structured in a way that students learn the necessary subject matter for the seminar as well as practice the skills that they would need to display such as delivering elevator speeches, multimedia presentations and productively working in groups. Also, instead of midterms, finals and
term papers, students work on research papers, group present- 
tations and they divide and conquer readings in order to cultivate their skills.

At the seminar, which takes place during spring break, the students reside in a luxurious hotel with a view of moun-
tains and a lake while engaging in worldly discussions with other brilliant future leaders. The experience allows for a dialog to initiate understanding of the contemporary world and global perspectives, and inspire cultural exchanges. The students then put into practice what they have learned in the course — to divide and conquer the world. They work on research papers proposing solutions to change the issue at hand. All Salzburg Scholars are expected to organize their own time; students usually work in the afternoon and socialize in the evening.

Upon their return, the students host a debriefing with another presentation for the President, the Provost, Associate Provost and administrators from the Honors Program. The presentation illustrates the students’ reflection of the entire Salzburg experience, including the course.

With the enriched knowledge and skills to better understand and interpret the international political order, the global economy and worldwide social developments, Salzburg Scholars are more aware of global issues and what it means to be a "global citizen." In the past, students returned inspired, more discerning in their assessment of worldly affairs, and brought back a global perspective to Kingsborough.

Dr. Rick Repetti is an Associate Professor of Philosophy who teaches several courses at KCC, but carries a story of a long, eventful and inspiring journey that brought him here. "I had a number of jobs — all kinds of jobs. I was a tractor-trailer driver, chimney cleaner, a busboy and a waiter. But you work for bonehead bosses who take advantage of people and you realize you have a brain and that you can do something with your life." Dr. Repetti is a scholar of CUNY, both as a former student and now as a professor. But growing up as a “mi-

ority” in the projects

By Niaz Mosharraf

Dr. Rick Repetti is an Associate Professor of Philosophy who teaches several courses at KCC, but carries a story of a long, eventful, and inspiring journey that brought him here. "I had a number of jobs — all kinds of jobs. I was a tractor-trailer driver, chimney cleaner, a busboy and a waiter. But you work for bonehead bosses who take advantage of people and you realize you have a brain and that you can do something with your life."

Dr. Repetti is a scholar of CUNY, both as a former student and now as a professor. But growing up as a “minority” in the projects

in New York City, he faced a few challenges in his teenage years. Dr. Repetti couldn’t go to college right after high school as that was the first year that CUNY started to charge tuition. Instead he worked various jobs for about eight years as he saved up money to go to school. "It’s funny because I thought, when I went back, ‘Oh, I’m rusty, I’m out of shape mentally, I haven’t been doing actual academic work in eight years, I’m a blue-collar guy, I’m not gonna be able to keep up with the smart 19-year-olds and 18-year-olds,” said Dr. Repetti reflecting on the time he debated about going back to school. "But my sister, the first to go to college in my poor immigrant family, said ‘Rick, trust me. When you start taking classes, you’ll realize that because you worked for eight years and you’ve learned so much beforehand, you’ll be in good standing.’"

He started his college education at Lehman College in the Bronx, then studied at Hunter College and earned his Bachelor's Degree in Brooklyn College, all while working as a paralegal and proofreader in a law firm.

After a year off, he attended CUNY Graduate School to earn his PhD in Philosophy while teaching as an adjunct in Brooklyn College. He also taught at LaGuardia for two years and then at Kingsborough in 1996. In 2003, Dr. Repetti was hired as a full-time professor at Kingsborough. Since then, he has taught several courses here including Asian Philosophy, Philosophy of Religion, Problems in Philosophy, as well as yoga courses and the Global Ethics course connected to the Salzburg scholarship.

In fact, he traveled with the Salzburg Scholars to Austria in 2006, and upon his return, he designed the Global Ethics course to better prepare and credit the students attending the seminar.

"I saw how hard they worked there for a week," said Dr. Repetti. "It was really intense and wonderful — kind of life altering for most of them. I wanted them to receive some credit for it academically."

Outside the classroom, Dr. Repetti pursues a few other passions of his besides teaching and his list of accomplishments continue to grow. He leads weekly meditations on campus and teaches yoga — a love of his since the age of 15 — at Marine Park Wellness Center on a regular basis. And at age 55, he just ran his third marathon in Philadelphia this past November.
Honors Student Profile: Valeria Selezneva

By Silvia Sanchez

Honors student Valeria Selezneva is the Honors Club President and is the Public Relations officer of the Phi Theta Kappa chapter. Selezneva explained that the slightly more challenging courses require a bit more work.

It’s something that has prepared Selezneva for life after college. “For me, college is a time of self-discovery,” she said. “Kingsborough provides many opportunities to do just that by connecting with new people, diversifying myself through education and experience, and in return, attaining a deeper sense of who I am and what I’m capable of.”

Selezneva was also published in “Distinctions” journal (Fall’12), is a REEO Rising Star and a Presidential Scholar member. Selezneva plans to transfer after graduation and pursue her Bachelor’s Degree. Later, she would like to obtain a Ph.D in Wildlife Biology from her dream school, Cornell University.

Helen-Margaret Nasser: The Honors Office’s Jack of All Trades

By Jennifer Szulman

Although Nasser’s job description differs from her college major, she brings the same fulfillment as her intended career path.

“I still try to find ways to infuse that into the students,” said Nasser in regards to her interest in International Development. “We do a lot of community service, awareness raising, campaigns and discussions on current events around political situations.”

As the Associate Director of the Honors Program, Nasser also prepares students to the umpteenth degree. “[The Honors Office] helps students register for honors courses and we plan extracurricular activities that will develop them academically and culturally,” said Nasser. “When they do transfer, they have everything they could possibly need and doors will be open for them.”

Nasser completed her Master’s in Political Science this past February of 2014 at the CUNY Graduate Center. Her gratification at work comes from how accessible she is to the students, who have enriched her life personally and professionally.

“The students inspired and motivated me to go back for [my] Master’s because I saw their enthusiasm for learning. So we’ll see where this exciting journey at Kingsborough will take me.”

Honors Graduate Profile: Hasanna Taitt

By Silvia Sanchez

As a student, Taitt was able to expand her college experience taking advantage of all the opportunities that were offered through the Honors Program.

“The Honors Program has definitely changed my perspective on Kingsborough Community College,” Taitt said. Although Taitt’s original plan was to transfer out of Kingsborough after her first semester, she explained that the Honors Program and their courses convinced her to stay.

“I started as a freshman in the spring of 2011, and since then I found myself amongst fellow honor students who were positive, inspirational and diligent,” she added. As a student, Taitt was part of the Dean’s list, a 2012-2013 REEO Rising Star and an Honors Representative. Additionally, she was a 2012 National Model United Nations delegate, as well as the Head Delegate for the 2013 team.

She had also won the Bronze Service Award for her dedicated service to the college. Taitt will finish her undergraduate degree in Biology at Hunter College and will later apply to medical school to become a cardiologist. She hopes to teach someday and to conduct research on heart disease.

“The Honors Program benefited me by providing a nurturing and encouraging staff who continued to push me to become the best that I can,” said Taitt.

Salzburg Scholars and NMUN Delegates Share Their Thoughts

“As one of the 13 delegates of 2013, I was given by far the best experience of my life, which expanded my networking skills and allowed me to interact and build friendships.”

- Silvia Sanchez, 2013 NMUN Delegate, KCC Class of 2013

“The Salzburg Global Seminar was a pivotal learning experience for me because it transformed the way that I view my life as well as humanity onto a larger global spectrum.”

- Dikun Elioba, Salzburg Scholar, REEO Member, KCC Class of 2012

“Being part of the team not only taught me about international relations, but also allowed me to understand the privileges that we have as Americans.”

- Asaloy Ikramova, 2013 NMUN Delegate, Phi Theta Kappa President 2013-2014

“Every word each speaker shared was laced with passion and endless wisdom. More than anything, I was reminded of the kind of life I hope to live and was encouraged with ample evidence that this future is possible.”

- Farin Kautz, Salzburg Scholar Honors Club President Fall 2011/Spring 2012 KCC Class of 2012

“[The Honors Office] helps students register for honors courses and we plan extracurricular activities that will develop them academically and culturally,” said Nasser.”

“The students inspired and motivated me to go back for [my] Master’s because I saw their enthusiasm for learning. So we’ll see where this exciting journey at Kingsborough will take me.”

“Every word each speaker shared was laced with passion and endless wisdom. More than anything, I was reminded of the kind of life I hope to live and was encouraged with ample evidence that this future is possible.”

- Farin Kautz, Salzburg Scholar Honors Club President Fall 2011/Spring 2012 KCC Class of 2012

“[The Honors Office] helps students register for honors courses and we plan extracurricular activities that will develop them academically and culturally,” said Nasser.”

“The students inspired and motivated me to go back for [my] Master’s because I saw their enthusiasm for learning. So we’ll see where this exciting journey at Kingsborough will take me.”

“Every word each speaker shared was laced with passion and endless wisdom. More than anything, I was reminded of the kind of life I hope to live and was encouraged with ample evidence that this future is possible.”

- Farin Kautz, Salzburg Scholar Honors Club President Fall 2011/Spring 2012 KCC Class of 2012

“[The Honors Office] helps students register for honors courses and we plan extracurricular activities that will develop them academically and culturally,” said Nasser.”

“The students inspired and motivated me to go back for [my] Master’s because I saw their enthusiasm for learning. So we’ll see where this exciting journey at Kingsborough will take me.”
My Time at the Model UN

By Asaloy Ikramova

National Model United Nations (NMUN) is a program that provides college students with the opportunity to engage with politics and topics with the perspective of their assigned country or organization. This program also hopes to bring together the next generation of international leaders.

Given the competitiveness of the program, KCC only selected 13 delegates last spring. I was pleased to be one of them. Being part of the NMUN team felt great, but also a bit frustrating. I didn’t know much about the program nor did I have any experiences with international politics. I joined the program to learn more about what happens behind the doors of United Nations and to be aware of what goes on around the world.

Being part of the team not only taught me about international relations, but also allowed me to understand the privileges that we have as Americans. The country assigned to us was the Republic of Chad — a landlocked country in Central Africa, one of the poorest in the region. However, it had the potential to change for the better.

After months of research on Chad, I realized how closely I am related to them. As an immigrant who came from a developing country myself, it was easier for me to better understand Chadians. This was the main ingredient that made me fight for this county with a passion.

Being part of NMUN gave me a lot of exposure to politics, which has empowered me to accomplish my goal of becoming a lawyer.

Honors Student Spends a Week in the Virgin Islands

By Elizabeth Guida

I am so glad I took a chance and tried this new experience in May of 2013 with Partners in the Park — an outdoor experiential learning program sponsored by the National Collegiate Honors Council in cooperation with national parks across the country. I am grateful to each and every one of the professors from St. Francis College who accompanied us on the trip to the Virgin Islands and guided us on this journey.

This experience taught us so much about the culture of the islands and the intricacies of marine life, while the Staff at VEIRS taught us the value of living a sustainable life. This experience has definitely changed the way I live.

Since I have been back, I have learned to notice and appreciate the natural beauty all around and how precious and scarce it can be. I’ve also implemented some changes in my personal life. I now carry a recyclable bag with me and refuse the plastic ones at the grocery store. I also use less water while showering and get out on my bicycle almost every day, rather than drive.

Aside from living a greener life, the experience has had other effects on my life. I still journal (as we were encouraged to do throughout this adventure) about the beauty of the natural world around us. I could not bear to see such beauty cease to exist.

The natural beauty around us should be preserved for generations to come. Being part of this amazing program was a once in a lifetime experience that I’ll never forget.

KCC Represents Chad at 2013 NMUN

By Silvia Sanchez

KCC’s team of 13 delegates, led by a head delegate and guided by a professor, represented the African nation of Chad at the 2013 National Model United Nations (NMUN).

English professor Stephen Armstrong was beside students the whole way. For an entire semester, he helped them research and professionally manage any issues concerning Chad.

Returning with previous NMUN experience from 2012, head delegate Hasanna Taitt helped shape the team’s diplomatic and public speaking skills.

“As a head delegate, it was an entirely different experience. Although I was still part of a team, I was responsible for 13 others,” Taitt said.

“My obligations were different - they included more of a leading role. I had to give advice, tips and help out with research.”

The NMUN is an opportunity offered by the Honors Program to students who wish to work with others to represent a given country. The program requires students to submit an essay explaining their interests in NMUN and why they would be good candidates.

In Spring 2014, KCC students will represent the country of Bolivia at the conference.