



STUDENT CONFERENCE

ON

JUST MERCY: A Story of Justice and Redemption

May 15 - 16, 2017 | MAC Conference Center



KCC READS

The Common Reading Program of Kingsborough Community College : C U N Y

STUDENT ENRICHMENT : CAMPUS COMMUNITY : SOCIAL JUSTICE

KINGSBOROUGH'S COMMON READING program was inaugurated at a meeting of the Faculty Assembly in Spring 2001. Like universities across the country, we wanted to adopt a program that would cultivate a reading culture and foster campus community through a single book. Since its inception, the program has been highly collaborative, with participation from every corner of our campus -- in events, meetings, debates, art projects, book nominations, reading groups and more. KCC Reads cultivates community chiefly through the work of our campus-wide cohort—including staff, faculty and students—which organizes events, selects the annual book and supports the broader work of teaching, reading and research through course adoptions across several disciplines.

The utility of a university common reading program is in the way it not only fosters a spirit of community at our school but also functions to enrich students in important ways: research and public speaking skills, critical thinking and writing skills, management and leadership experience, as well as preparing them for senior college or for the career they may enter upon graduation. The program also engages a social justice agenda, through student research elaborating social and political themes of the books and by means of civic engagement work in the world beyond our campus borders.

*We organize an events series in which students, staff and faculty collaborate. Our culminating event for the year is today's program: the **KCC Reads Student Conference**, where students present their work on the book—this year, **Just Mercy** by Bryan Stevenson—in panel and roundtable discussions, debates and power point presentations, multimedia performances and dramatic recitations, and as part of an art exhibition. The conference features a Keynote Lecture, given today by esteemed lawyer, **Zachary Katznelson, J.D.**, and a special opening Plenary Session, a Faculty Forum on social justice, pedagogy and **Just Mercy**.*

*Finally, we are pleased to announce that, in an unprecedented move and in a unanimous vote, the KCC Reads Cohort has chosen to continue **Just Mercy** as our common reading for a second year. For the first time, the program adopts a book for two consecutive academic years, 2016 - 2017 and again in 2017 - 2018. Thus, Bryan Stevenson's remarkable book, and the critical social justice issues it highlights, will remain a major focus on Kingsborough's campus next year. We hope you share our enthusiasm for this extraordinary and remarkably important book!*

THE KCC READS STUDENT CONFERENCE

on

Just Mercy: A Story of Justice & Redemption

by Bryan Stevenson

MONDAY & TUESDAY, MAY 15 AND 16, 2017

MAC CONFERENCE CENTER (M-240)

MONDAY, MAY 15TH:

Opening Plenary

3:00 p.m.:

Session 1:

In Central, *A Faculty Led Discussion:*

Social Justice, Pedagogy and *Just Mercy*

TUESDAY, MAY 16TH:

Student Conference

9:10 – 10:10 am:

Session 2 (concurrent):

2A in Central, 2B in South

10:20 – 11:20 am:

Session 3 (concurrent):

3A in Central, 3B in M-239

11:30 am – 12:30 pm:

Session 4 (concurrent):

4A in Central, 4B in South

12:40 – 1:40 pm:

Session 5 (concurrent):

5A in Central, 5B in M-239

1:50 – 2:50 pm:

Session 6:

6A in Central

Keynote Lecture & Reception

3:00 – 4:30 pm:

Session 7:

In Central, *Keynote Lecture: Zachary Katznelson*

Introduction: KCC President Farley Herzek

4:30 – 5:00 pm:

Closing Reception:

MAC Rotunda Lobby, Catered by Chef Stephen

Weintraub & the Students of TAH 43

Art Exhibit (MAC Rotunda Lobby)

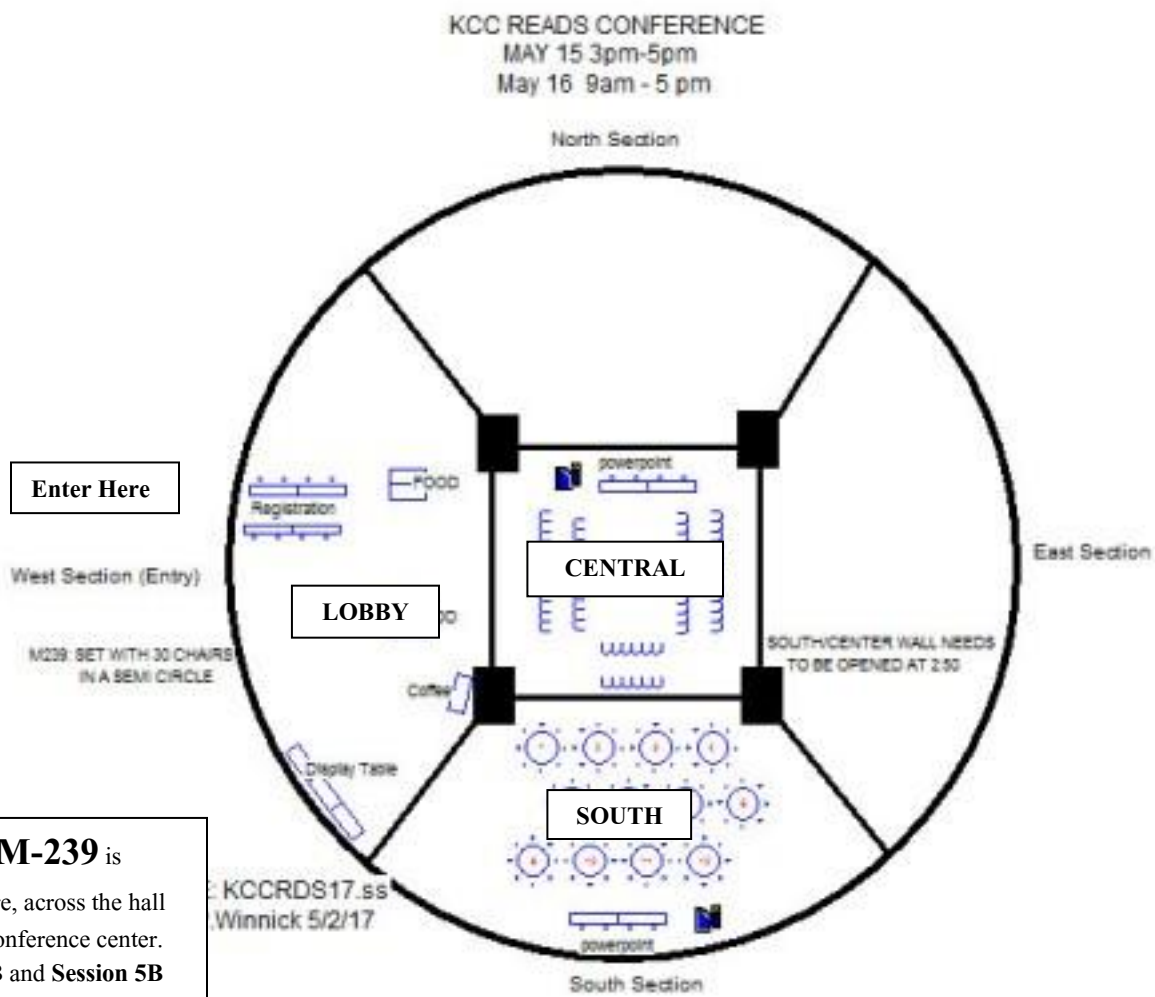
Curated by Professor Madeline Sorel, Dept. of Art

THE KCC READS STUDENT CONFERENCE

MAC Conference Center



*A diagram of the MAC Conference Center,
with Session Locations marked:*



Room M-239 is

located here, across the hall
from the conference center.
Session 3B and **Session 5B**
are in Room M-239.



MONDAY, MAY 15TH



SESSION ONE: Opening Plenary

3:00 – 4:00 p.m. in Central:

A Faculty Led Discussion:

Social Justice, Pedagogy and Just Mercy

Featuring:

Professor Madeline Sorel, Dept. of Art
Professor Jason Leggett, Dept. of History, Philosophy & Political Science
Professor Maggie Hill, Dept. of English
Karl Alexandre, College Discovery
Professor D.L. Anderson, Dept. of English
Professor Paul Ricciardi, Dept. of Communications & Performing Arts
Former KCC Professor & Political Activist, Liza Bruna

Convener: Professor Maureen E. Fadem, Dept. of English



TUESDAY, MAY 16TH



The KCC Reads

Student Conference

&

Keynote Lecture

2016 – 2017 Academic Year

on

Just Mercy

by Bryan Stevenson



SESSION TWO:
9:10 a.m. – 10:10 a.m.

Session 2A in CENTRAL:

Panel Discussion with Honors Students

Themes in *Just Mercy*

STUDENT PRESENTERS: Kira Charles, Lee-Ann Graham, Nehal Naser, Olalekan Shonowo, John Johnson and Christian Smith.

Moderator: Professor Jane Birzin, The KCC Honors Program

Session 2B in SOUTH:

Roundtable Discussions with Composition Students

Discussion Topics Inspired by *Just Mercy*:

Sentencing, Rights, Mercy, Corruption & Education

STUDENT DISCUSSION LEADERS: Carlos Velasco, Skeelande Molme, Mecca DeLoatch, Kendrik Jones, Valerie Morin, Yosif Sharhan, Daniel Adjabeng, Vivi Ariza and Hatice Baytar.

Convener: Professor Jennifer Radtke, Dept. of English



SESSION THREE:
10:20 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.

Session 3A in CENTRAL:

Panel Discussion with Political Science Students

Civil Liberties at Stake

STUDENT PRESENTERS: Alexandra Thervenin, Sahara Marke, Robert Rodriguez, Chidi Steward-Baker and Francesco Scalici.

Moderator: Professor Indira Skoric, Dept. of History, Philosophy and Political Science

Session 3B in M-239:

Multimedia Performances by Drama Students

What's Going On?: Finding Mercy in the Criminal Justice System

STUDENT PERFORMERS & WRITERS: Warrad Barakat, Ashley Beltran, Ajani Bethea-Nurse, Dmytro Budak, Gary Chung, Janet Cohen, Cindy Coral, Michael Costa II, Dontae Duffy, Rachel Esha, Ashley Monet Foskey, Vanessa Gonzalez, Aaliyah Green, Stacie Haskell, Alimah Hill, Lytsia Inwood, Beverly Jager, Anastasiya Kharlamova, Muhammed Kilic, Madison Lalumia, Vanessa Luna, Shelby Millien, Melanie Nebavlakis, Sabrina Parks, Lisa Rosado, Yael Rubinstein, Vannet Soriano Haro, Mohammed Sweidan, Joseph Trapani III, Felicia Tricarico, Pamela Valere, Abram Yukhayev and Julie Zirdok.

Director: Professor D.L. Anderson, Dept. of English

SESSION FOUR:
11:30 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Session 4A in CENTRAL:

Panel Discussion with Constitutional Law Students

Modelling Dialogue about Criminal Justice Solutions

STUDENT PRESENTERS & DISCUSSANTS: William Acevedo, Kristhie Almonte, Kaeson Andino, Nastassia Baxter, Carly Berk, Drew Bentley Blayze, Richard Dawson, Megan Deslouches, Nadege Dominique, Ean Feliciano, Tiara Flores, Javon Frazer, Tatyana Galla, Joshua Gani, Joann Gervais, Simone Groober, Yaroslav Hayovyy, Joanna Herrera, Mainray Ho, Oliver Jacques-Simon, Joseph Kehs, Cameron Lawrence, Richard Lopez, Hephysiba Louis, Tania Lubin, Keanu Mcfadzean, Jessica Merisca, Elizaveta Nikolaeva, Ashley Ortega, Nick Ou, Ghulam Qureshi, Andre Reed, Tremayne Richard, Saja Seif, Olalekan Shonowo, Matthew Stasiak, Nathaniel Sylvester, Alexandra Thevenin, Miguel Angel Torres, Treazur Watson, Philip Wong and Michael Zolfo.

Moderator: Professor Jason Leggett, Dept. of History, Philosophy and Political Science

Session 4B in SOUTH:

Roundtable Discussions with Composition Students

Two Drummers of Justice: Bryan Stevenson and Michelle Alexander

STUDENT DISCUSSION LEADERS: Omari Eastman, Zoe Wright Jasper, Charlotte Williams and Mohammed Othman.

Convener: Professor Doreen Bowens, Dept. of English



SESSION FIVE:
12:40 p.m. – 1:40 p.m.

Session 5A in CENTRAL:

Roundtable Discussions with Literature & Composition Students

The Death of Innocence: Walter McMillian and the Victims of ‘Justice’

STUDENT DISCUSSION LEADERS: Junior Khalid, Thea General, Muteeba Sheikh, Dilya Haydarkulova, Tatyana Mills, Jennifer Goldberg, Keziann Jones, Julia Masters, Christopher Osorio and Lorin Almonte.

Convener: Professor Maureen Fadem, Dept. of English

Session 5B in M-239:

Multimedia Performances by Composition Students

One Love, One Nation: Finding Mercy in Our Judicial System

STUDENT PERFORMERS & WRITERS: Edlyne Bernard, Jevaughn Brooks, Caitlin Crews, Ann-Marie Cunningham, Daniel Curcio, Tania Espinoza, Omar Flores, Nickeesha Francis, Nicolai Gorbali, Yutang Hu, Mohammad Islam, Haphsatou Kebe, Raequan Lyon, Deeba Mazhar, Margarita Medyanaya, Omar Mohamed, Lamasia Moss, Fatima Nagiyeva, Maftuna Ochilova, Inna Palinchak, Ammar Qamar, Trisha Ramballi, Amy Sissoko, Elynddy Toribio, Christian Wolf and Albina Yessayan.

Director: Professor D.L. Anderson, Dept. of English

SESSION SIX: 1:50 a.m. – 2:50 a.m.

Session 6A in CENTRAL:

Performances by Theater Students

Theater and the Activist's Voice: Dramatic Readings of *Just Mercy*

STUDENT PERFORMERS: Kristina Paul, Elizabeth Bazile and Ashley Hope Villanueva.

Director: Professor Paul Ricciardi, Dept. of Communications & Performing Arts



A *VERY* SINCERE, *VERY* ENTHUSIASTIC, GREAT BIG

Thank You!

*to the hundreds of **KCC Students***

& KCC Alumni

*who Performed, Presented, Spoke, Taught,
Attended, Photographed & Supported this Event!*

*and to the **Students** of Chef Weintraub's*

TAH 43: Catering Event Management

who made all of today's beautiful food!

*You are **ALL** remarkable!*



SESSION SEVEN:

The Keynote Lecture

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Formerly of Bryan Stevenson’s EJI,
now of Legal Aid Society, Prisoner’s Rights Project, NYC**

Zachary Katznelson, J.D.

will speak on

“The Sharpest Edge: Race and Criminal Justice in America”

Introduction, 3:00 – 3:10

KCC President Farley Herzek

Lecture & Discussion, 3:10 – 4:30

Zachary Katznelson, J.D.



Reception: Hosted by KCC Culinary Arts
4:30 – 5:30 pm | Lobby of the MAC Rotunda

Catered and hosted by Chef Steven Weintraub & the
Students of TAH 43: Catering Event Management!

Acknowledgements

This Conference could not have taken place without the gracious and tireless support of the following individuals and offices:

Karl Alexandre	Janine Palludan
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Phil Cassata	Steven Weintraub
Peter Cohen	Paul Winnick
Mark D'Alessandro	
Maureen Daly	~~~~~
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Zachary Katznelson	Panda House
Jake King	The President's Office
Jason Leggett	Public Safety
Monica Mendez	The Office of Student Affairs
Helen-Margaret Nasser	

A Very Special Thanks to the following individuals who made significant contributions to this event:

- KCC Alumni **Farin Kautz** and **Dimitri Foster** for working tirelessly as Conference Photographers, photographing every session of this two-day conference;
 - **Monica Mendez** and **Tsubasa Berg** of KCEl for videotaping today's Keynote Lecture;
- Chef-Instructor **Steven Weintraub** and his **Culinary Arts Students** for preparing the food for today's conference!
- Prof. **Madeline Sorel** (Dept. of Art), for working with students to create visual interpretations of *Just Mercy* and curating our Art Exhibit, for helping us with conference set up and being part of our faculty forum;
- KCC Student **Amanda Dellavecchia** for creating the program, the conference poster, and who will help us work on *Paideia* this year;
- And, the entire **KCC Reads Cohort** for all their work, all year: www.kbcc.cuny.edu/kccreads/Pages/cohort





"Lady Justice"

The KCC Reads Student Conference

on

Just Mercy

May 15 - 16, 2017

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The **ABOVE IMAGE** copyright © by KCC student-artist, Yolanda Herndon
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Both pieces were created under the supervision of Professor Madeline Sorel, Dept. of Art