STUDENT CONFERENCE

ON

JUST MERCY: A Story of Justice and Redemption

May 15 - 16, 2017 | MAC Conference Center

Image Copyright © KCC Student Artist Nhi Vuong, created under supervision of Prof. Madeline Sorel
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
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**


*Moderator:* Professor Jane Birzin, The KCC Honors Program

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**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

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

**Session 3A in CENTRAL:**
Panel Discussion with Political Science Students

**Civil Liberties at Stake**


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

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**Session 3B in M-239:**
Multimedia Performances by Drama Students

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


*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


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


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


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 Katzenelson, 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 Katzenelson, 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

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- 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
The KCC Reads Student Conference

on

**Just Mercy**

May 15 - 16, 2017

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The **COVER ART** copyright © by KCC student-artist, Nhi Vuong

Both pieces were created under the supervision of Professor Madeline Sorel, Dept. of Art