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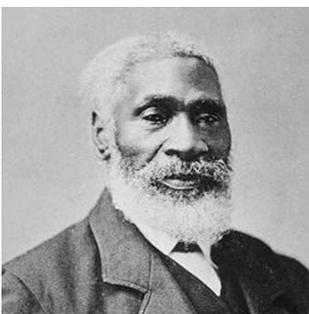
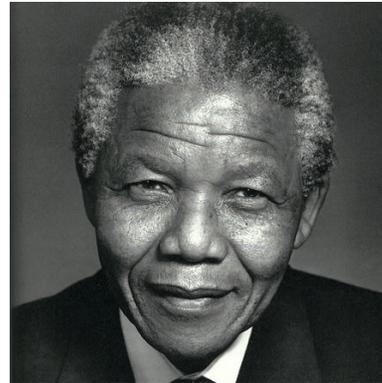
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## An Opportunity to Honor Black History: A Cross-Campus Collaboration



Black History Month is widely celebrated and recognized throughout the country today as a time to study and honor achievements made by black Americans and people of African descent.

By Allan Santana



**B**lack History Month has been a significant time years before it was nationally recognized in 1976 when President Gerald Ford pushed to make February the solidified month to honor Black History. Forty-three years later, Kingsborough is coming together to honor this history to discuss, learn, and grow. In the past years, the Center for Academic Writing Success (CAWS) has collaborated with the Office of Student Life and have put together events that celebrate Black excellence. This year this, the two offices collaborated yet again and have planned two informative events that are set to occur in the first week of February with an overarching theme of History, Culture, and Perspective: The Collective Experiences of the African Diaspora.

experiences as well as differences that exist within the diaspora.

The second event, scheduled on Wednesday, February 6 focused primarily on Black literature. This is the 5th annual Read-in event where participants read out-loud from selected passages from their favorite Black authors. Participants chose to recite a poem or read an excerpt from any work by a Black author. Giving students the chance to read black literature and thought is essential because it is the goal of event organizers to highlight all genres by Black authors.



The first event took place on Tuesday, February 5 where a panel consisting of KCC faculty and staff discussing Black identity, culture and the diverse experiences of members of the African diaspora. Panel members were of various ethnic backgrounds and touched on topics such as black values, shared

This month's events will give the students a chance to voice their opinions, highlight their experiences and accomplishments, and study the written and spoken word of great Black leaders is a great feat and even more critical task. Black History Month is a time to educate yourselves, and hopefully, others, as to not lose touch with black and African-American culture's past, present, and future. As Marcus Garvey stated, "A people without the knowledge of their history, origin, and culture is like a tree without roots."





# Scepter

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Scepter welcomes letters to the editors and opinions from the entire Kingsborough Community.



## Letter From The Editor

To the Student body of Kingsborough Community College,

As we muster through the bracing cold it's important to remember; it has to warm up eventually. I hope everyone had a wonderful time during the holidays filled with family, friends, and laughter. For all my fellow gamers I know we have had plenty to be excited about. The Spring semester is creeping close and before you know it, it'll be June. I want to extend a most sincere thank you to Aracely Calle, Scepter's Production Manager. Aracely, congratulations on your impending graduation. You've been amazing and we'll be sad to see you go.

## Resident Evil 2 Remake

Review: A Love Letter to Survival Horror.

By Matthew Hirsch

In 1996 the original Resident Evil brought the Survival Horror genre to the mainstream. Two years later fans of the series received Resident Evil Two, which to many is the best game in the franchise. The issue with these classics is they don't exactly stand the test of time. The "tank" style controls were clunky and frustrating, the graphics didn't age well, and the voice acting was very much "B-Horror." Fast forward over 20 years, and we now have RE Two: Remake. This love letter to the Survival Horror genre takes everything that made the original amazing and outright improves or completely changes its weaknesses.

The first, and most important question to consider for a Survival Horror game is obvious; is it scary? And beyond a shadow of a doubt, the answer is yes. A grim and oppressive atmosphere where every enemy poses a serious threat and limited access to supplies makes this experience absolutely terrifying.

But the genius of this game doesn't stop with the mechanics or fantastic level design. A considerable reason RE Two: Remake is excellent is the perfect pacing of the story. It's challenging from the beginning but eases you into progressively scarier and more difficult situations. Until you are thrust into one of the most intense and nerve-racking sequences in recent memory. In fact, each act feels distinct with unique setpieces that are frightening for different reasons. This game is no one-trick pony.

One aspect that needed to be executed flawlessly was the puzzles. And flawless they were. None stand out as frustratingly tricky, but they never hold your hand either. Every problem is solvable with a little bit of thought and figuring them out feels like an accomplishment. There is always just enough available information, so you aren't entirely lost, but still requires a healthy amount of logic.

What makes this game Survival Horror rather than an Action title, (other than being scary,) is the combination of enemies refusal to stay down and the scarcity of ammunition and healing items. Every bullet counts, and medical attention is a luxury not

to be squandered. These circumstances force you to think on your feet while your heart is beating out of your chest because some monstrosity won't die and their sole purpose is to eat your face. It's the kind of experience only a videogame can provide, and it's beautiful in the most grotesque way possible.

The combat itself is serviceable. But mechanically its genuinely brilliant. If you move while aiming, you won't be perfectly accurate. So if you want to make pinpoint shots to a zombie's head or knee, you have to stand still. But if you hold still, you are an easy target for the other reanimated corpses. It's this dynamic that emphasizes the importance of every action you take, especially in high-stress situations. It cannot be understated how ingenious Resi Two Remake is on a mechanical level. As well as how crucial it was to perfect it. Attention to detail like this is what boosts a game from good to great.

Visually, you can't call the game as beautiful. It's too gory to be described as such, but it is impressive. The lighting is perfect; your flashlight allows you to see well enough to get around but hides impending scares. Perhaps the most impressive graphical feat is the gore. The textures are magnificently detailed. To misquote the Black Knight from Monty Python and the Holy Grail, these are most certainly not just flesh wounds. Torn flesh and tendons, bone, rotting skin, every gnarled detail is shoved in your face for you to admire in disgust.

In reality, it would be shockingly easy to go on about how amazing Resident Evil Two: Remake is. Shinji Mikami, the original creator of the series, should be monumentally proud of this entry in the franchise. It is everything a Survival Horror game needs to be and so much more. It's flawless in nearly every aspect. The eight or so hours you'll spend on each campaign both fly by because of how good it is and feel like forever because of how terrified you'll be while playing. Any complaints would be minor nitpicks not even worth mentioning. Resi Two Remake is easily an early game of the year candidate for 2019 and might also be the best game in the series.

## 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.

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## Single Stop: Food For Thought, Nutrition For Academics

Whether it's clothing, food, or resources, Single Stop tries to make sure that students get the benefits that they deserve.

By William Morton

Single Stop USA at Kingsborough was made to counteract poverty and act as a trove of resources for students who are in need of them. Single Stop USA's national community college initiative seeks to harness two of the country's most effective anti-poverty tools: coordinated access to America's safety net and a post-secondary education.

The program's stance is anti-poverty and, as such, attempts to give students and staff their opportunity in their areas of need. Kingsborough Community College began to be associated with Single Stop after observation of students dropping out of school to handle other aspects of their circumstances. Those students either prolong their graduation or don't have the opportunity to do so. Kingsborough and Single Stop want to let students know what benefits they are entitled to and what they can do to procure them.

The staff at Single Stop are filled with coordinators and consultants who want students to succeed. Single Stop Director, Hattie Elmore, has made her office a comfort zone in which insecure students can ask her questions without fear. Elmore makes sure to bring attention to any issue that a student could possibly have. The services offered in the office are free.

"Students that come here could be going through different things. It could be a food issue, it could be a housing issue, it may be a housing issue, it may be an immigration issue, or it could be a childcare issue. It varies with each student. There are students who want to vent just to release the stress," said Elmore.

There are other services that are offered to students such as tax preparation and referrals to legal

consultants. Representation is something that a select few students struggle with and to have the proper legal guidance can make the difference. Elmore agrees that part of the reason that students don't apply for services that could benefit them is a stigma about their circumstance.

"Most students don't apply for government benefits because they feel that there is a stigma attached to it or they don't understand the government agencies or the resources that are provided. Their taxes paid into that pool of money so if there is a time when they are in need of a service, they can utilize it. There is a stigma that is put to government benefits and entitlements, and that's why I try to talk about all the services that we have so that students don't feel like they are going to meet with a social worker that's going to judge them. Single Stop is a non-judgment, non-biased place. There are no labels. They shouldn't feel as if they are using the system," said Elmore.

Students can have a level of hesitance if they try to ask for help and they could struggle in their academic career if they don't get the proper guidance that they need. Single Stop lets students know about their program via visiting classrooms or word of mouth in hopes to restore students academic career if an individual student's situation has an effect on their academic performance.

"Students are usually referred here because they hear about the program and it's usually me doing classroom announcements or orientation but for the most part, a lot of students go through their entire academic career without stepping foot into our office

but need several of our services. That's the saddest part when the services go unused by a student who actually needs it because they don't know about the office or what we actually do inside of here. It's sad to have a student who struggled and we could have prevented that, who had to take a break from school and we could have prevented that, who lost out on a job or faced eviction and that could have been prevented," said Elmore. Single Stop has provisions for students so that they don't have to get hungry or feel like they are burdened. Kingsborough has brought opportunity to its students and Single Stop hopes to continue to inspire students to procure success with its resources. The variety of resources there could make students consider a convenient visit.

"We have a job bank book, in which we look up part-time work for students, in the summer there are workforce programs, things like that. We have a book for housing if you're looking for low-income housing, rooms for rent or drop-in centers," said Elmore, "We also have soup kitchens, food pantries, childcare information. Some students don't want to come here for the food pantries. They rather go to their own neighborhood because there's a stigma with them going to the food pantry and someone is seeing them so we provide information for them in their own neighborhood. For new moms, we have a place where we refer them for clothing and baby items that they may need. We have resources for the LGBTQ community such as hospitals, resources, and counseling in communities that they feel safe. We have resources for each student that steps foot in here." Single Stop is located in V-231.

## 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: [scepter@kbcc.cuny.edu](mailto:scepter@kbcc.cuny.edu)



## Honors Students: Examples of Academic Excellence

Over the last semester, KBCC honors students have managed to the break records and achieve many recognizable accomplishments.

By Allan Santana

Diversity at Kingsborough is apparent no matter where you go on campus. From majors and coursework to diversity amongst the students and faculty, it is evident that KBCC is an establishment of distinctiveness. The one thing all students have in common is they are here to learn, grow, and prosper. Kingsborough offers the ability to accomplish this at the highest possible level through the well-established Honors Program located in room M377.

The Honors Program maintains a mission “dedicated to providing outstanding educational, leadership, fellowship and service opportunities for highly motivated and academically capable students.” The Honors Program holds their students to an academic standard of achieving and maintaining a cumulative 3.20 or higher GPA, and in return, the program offers an unprecedented and unmatched level of support, insights, and opportunities.

Over the last semester, KBCC honors students have managed to the break records and achieve many recognizable accomplishments. Some of those include that of Aaliyah Howard, Nicholas James, Alvin Wu, and Maria Gonzalez who are currently all semi-finalists for the Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship. The scholarship is a highly rigorous and competitive opportunity that boasts the ability to earn up to \$40,000 per year to allow students to attend the highest regarded colleges and universities. These institutions include the likes of Amherst College, Vanderbilt University, Harvard University, and Princeton University. Our accomplishments

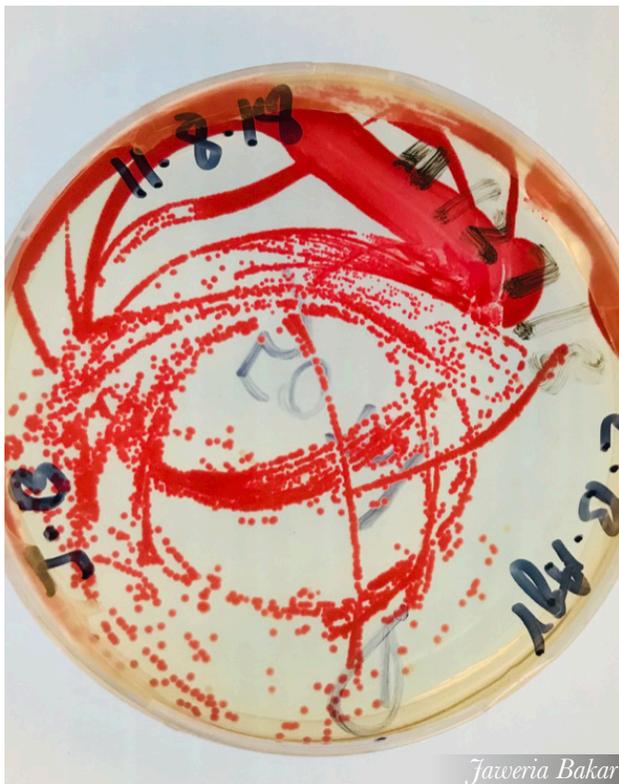
extend not only to this country but even as far as London where Kyle Reese, a well-esteemed Honors student will be studying this summer after being accepted to The University of Roehampton’s summer program. While there, Reese will examine “The Psychology of Art: Madness, Creativity and Healing.”

The Honors Program also works to fuel career ambitions and provide initial funding to Camilo Florez and Alan Santana for our ATM business called Chrysos ATM after competing in and winning the CUNY I-Corps challenge.

The CUNY I-Corps challenge is a competition open to all CUNY schools to develop and pitch entrepreneurial ideas for a company in front of Capital One Bank investors that can then be grown and established.

Honors students are multifaceted in their studies. Camilo Florez, a STEM student at KBCC won Brandeis University’s hackathon called Constellation.

No matter what you study, resources and opportunities such as honors classes, free trips to the Met Opera, meet-and-greets with admissions officers from top schools, Honors meetings on how to cope with stress during finals are all offered. Bringing honors students together and giving them the opportunity to succeed in all aspects of their life. This all, of course, would not be possible without the hardworking Honors staff, in particular, Homar Barcena Ph.D., Luz Martin del Campo Ph.D., and Jane Birzin.



Jaweria Bakar

## Red Bacteria in KBCC Soil

Many Uses and Occurances of Serratia Bacteria.

By Jaweria Bakar

Have you ever noticed some pink “mold” on your bathroom surfaces? The pink “mold” in your shower is not mold at all. The staining is due to a bacterial colony “Serratia marcescens.” Yes, you read it right, bacteria. The Serratia species thrives in moist surroundings like showers, where it feeds on minerals and fat residue from soap and shampoo. It is harmless to most healthy individuals. However, it can cause severe illnesses if it enters the body

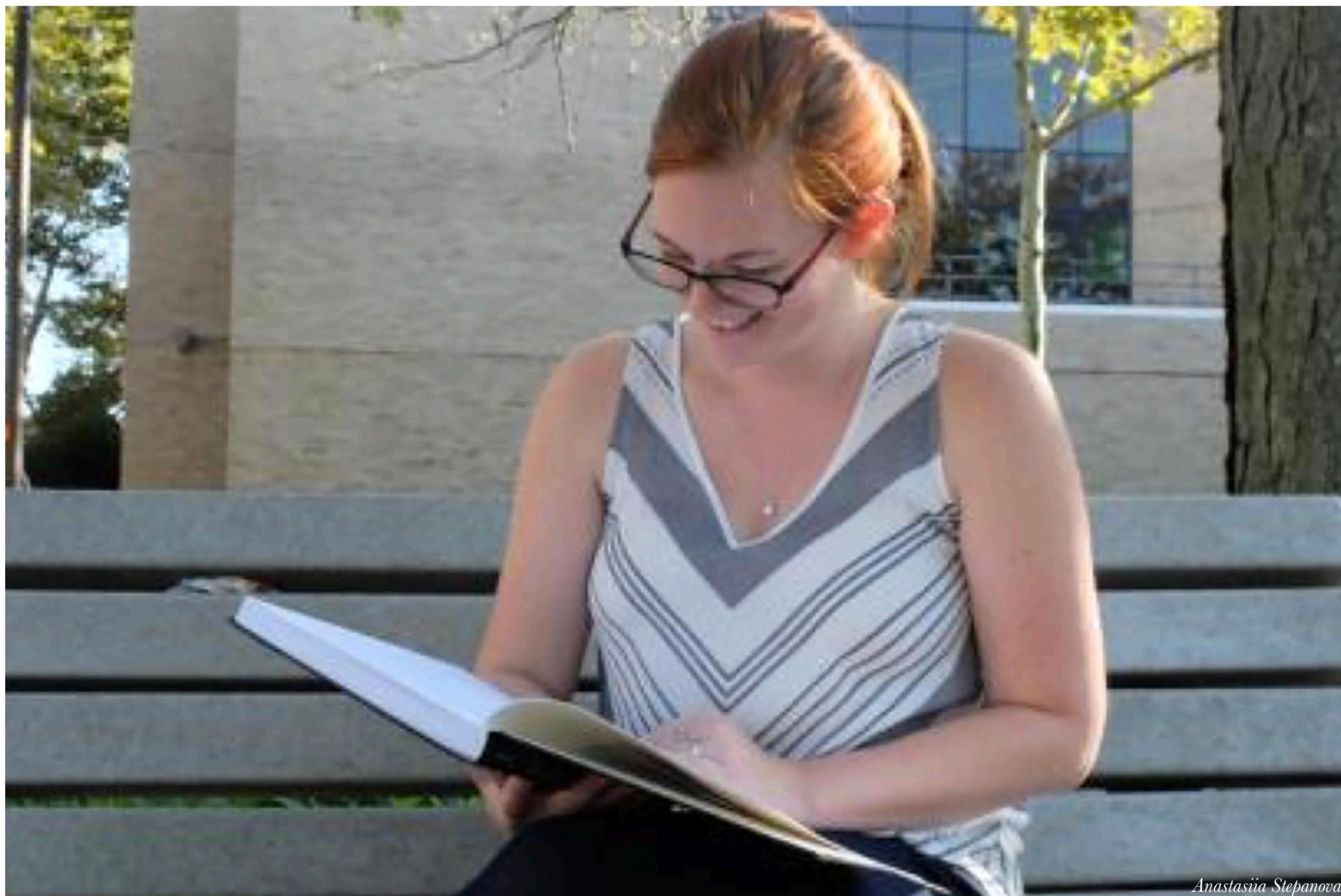
through the eyes or open wounds. The severity and variability of these ailments intensify in individuals with compromised immune systems. Therefore, it is better to remove the biofilm before the bacteria multiply and your exposure to it increases.

I got to know about Serratia for the first time when I was working on a research project with KCC Professor, Dr. ZMG Sarwar Jahangir. We began with culturing bacteria which means multiplying microbial organisms by letting them reproduce in a predetermined culture medium under controlled laboratory conditions. We took a soil sample from the KBCC lawn on October 17, 2018, on the east side of the S-Building. The soil was moist and covered with green grass. The temperature on that day ranged from 7°-16° C. We cultured the cell in the most commonly used medium LB-Agar (agar is like food for the bacteria) in an incubator at 27° C. As a result, after 24 hours, we observed two types of colonies. There were a few red colonies among several white colonies. This was amazing because there have been no previous records or publications about getting red colonies from KBCC soil. Naturally, our interest developed and while we did more research on red bacteria we found out some interesting facts about it.

Nearly 800 hundred years ago from the time of the Middle Ages through the Renaissance period, Serratia regularly grew on communion wafers. This led many to think this was miraculously the blood of Christ. In 1263, four hundred years before Anton Van Leeuwenhoek observed bacteria under a microscope. The blood appeared dramatically on the communion bread and the garments of those breaking bread. Inspired by this event the artist Raphael painted his masterpiece, the Mass of Bolsena, on the wall breaking the communion loaf at the Saint Christina Church in Italy. When the priest cut the communion wafer, he thought that it had blood on it and that the bread had indeed become Jesus’ flesh! This convinced the priest of miracles. The Pope Urban declared it an official miracle and set aside the communion

elements, plates, and garments to place them in a museum. They are still in the Vatican museum today. Neither Peter the Priest nor Pope Urban knew that Serratia Marcescens was the probable cause of this blood. Serratia produces bright red pigment, and this trait makes it useful in experiments because it is traceable. In the wake of World War II, the United States military was concerned about threats posed by biological warfare, and in the 1950s, the U.S. military used it in a large-scale biowarfare test. On September 26, 1950, the crew of a U.S. Navy minesweeper ship spent six days spraying Serratia Marcescens into the air about two miles off the northern California coast. The project was called “Operation Sea Spray,” and it aimed to determine the vulnerability of a big city like San Francisco to a bioweapon attack by terrorists. In this regard, the experiment was a success that the bacteria had quickly infested not only the city but also surrounding suburban areas. The test showed that San Francisco and cities with similar size and landscape are susceptible to germ warfare threats.

However, after that, many people got sick from this bacterium, and it was considered to be the first outbreak caused by Serratia. Because of its ability to survive in the very harsh conditions including antiseptic areas and its resistance to wide range of antibiotics. This bacterium is the primary cause of hospital-acquired infections. In fact, at that time one person recovering from prostate surgery died. The illnesses caused by Serratia include urinary tract infections, respiratory infections, and pneumonia. Since this pathogen is airborne, the exposure to it is inevitable, and once its colonies have established, it is difficult to get rid of it completely. However, it is easier to spot due to red pigment it produces. Therefore, if you notice pink-mold kind of substance growing in your house or at your workplace immediately get rid of it by using bleach solution because it is sensitive to bleach. Also, try to clean the soap residue after taking a shower or washing your hands. Remember prevention is better than cure.



Anastasiia Stepanova

# Thompson's Promise Forges a Career

Bringing Culturally Relevant Teaching into the Classroom.

By Anastasiia Stepanova

Tara Thompson was 21 when she made a promise to her mother, which carried her along the difficult journey to her dream career.

"My mother looked at me and asked only one thing," Thompson said. "You are going to finish school, right?" I said: 'Yes, of course.' "There was no doubt in my mind that I would."

Thirteen years later, Thompson, the 34-year-old Texan, one of the best-rated professor at KCC, according to [ratemyprofessor.com](http://ratemyprofessor.com) – finished her doctoral program at Columbia University and published a book dedicated to her mother.

She began her career in 2006 at Northern Virginia Community College as an English professor. Thompson also worked as an ESL tutor at the college.

"I got the experience of working one on one with the students and I really enjoyed it. They were hard workers and their intentions were good. A lot of them were coming in and they were just trying to learn how to read and write. I liked the advising and mentoring aspect of that experience, assuring these students that it was ok," said Thompson.

Two years later, she moved to New York with her husband, she continued teaching Freshman composition at KBCC. She started teaching ESL in the fall of 2009. In 2011, she started a doctoral program at Teachers College, Columbia University and she was exposed to the concept that called Culturally Relevant Teaching.

"And that was when the light bulb went on for me. Culturally relevant teaching," Thompson exclaimed. "And I realized that it had a name for what I was basically doing in my classes. I was privileging students' native language."

Thompson not only uses formal techniques to teach English, but she also builds language awareness. The term language awareness means "explicit knowledge about language, and conscious perception and sensitivity in language learning, language teaching and language use," according to University of Sydney Papers in TESOL.

"Because I feel like if you build awareness first then those other grammatical structures, they naturally fall into place," Thompson said.

Putting together all the carried knowledge, experience, self-education and endless love to what she does Thompson published a book in 2018 called "The Mind's Eye: a Culturally Relevant Pedagogy in College/English with Multicultural Population."

"I was collecting visual data. I studied my students' visual literacy practices," she said. "My students would make drawings. Instead of asking them to write a traditional summary. I would say I want you to visually illustrate for me a scene or an idea, or a concept from the book."

She had a group of four scholars: two from China, one from the Dominican Republic and one from Ukraine. She picked these students for a reason;

their native languages are parts of different languages families and their cultural background is completely different from one another.

In addition to visual literacy, Thompson studied students' media literacy practices. They had a Facebook group and she collected data on how they use social networks to increase their learning experience.

"The Mind's Eye: a Culturally Relevant Pedagogy in College/English with Multicultural Population" is about how someone's cultural background can help in learning English.

"And how I, as a teacher, use my awareness of your cultural background to help you as well," Thompson added.

She believes that English Second Language is a negative tag to put on students and it should be Multilingual Studies instead.

Overall, Thompson is a professional, inspiring, caring, positive and easy going woman. She puts a lot of diligence, time and love in what is best for her students. She pays close attention to the cultural background, native language and personality of everybody who is lucky to work with her.

"I think you think I cannot communicate, but here are my words for your consumption and consideration," Thompson once wrote in a poem, encapsulating the experiences many of her students deal with on a daily basis. "My mind frees what the page imprisons: the white, the white, the black, the black."

# Surviving New Semester Stress

Make the Best of What KCC has to Offer.

By Kiara Saunders

Starting a new semester could be hard. There are new professors, new classes and fresh faces. It also could be really hard starting a new school. As an incoming freshman, it's hard finding your way around a new place. Don't fret, and don't worry it's easier than one may think. Kingsborough is an amazing school with a welcoming environment. There are many people that are very helpful such as Zarina Robertson in Access-Ability and Nicholas Giampetruzzi from CUNY Leads.

There are also amazing professors that are very helpful and want you to succeed, such as professor Frank Percaccio and professor Brian Philip Katz. Kingsborough has many different resources to help when things get tough such as The Center for

Career Development and Experiential Learning located in C-102. There are also offices like The Counseling Center located in D-102 that help provides emotional and psychological support, and the Health Center located in A-108. There are so many different clubs that one can join such as Scepter, Honors, and the Cosplay Club. If you're interested in joining a club, be sure not to miss the Involvement Fair on March 12th from 2-5pm in the Cafeteria!

Students can create new friendships here and meet many different people from all walks of life. When dealing with those first-day jitters one could just look around and find someone just like them. There are many new incoming students that are

more than likely feeling the same way. If a student gets lost there are maps located all around campus and Public Safety of a staff member will be happy to point you in the right direction. Kingsborough also has a nice dining area with several different food options. There are also different food places off campus such as Subway and a Halal food truck. The location is also amazing because it is right by the water. This allows students to be to have a nice view while getting work done or even while hanging out. It's a great area that allows one to get air and feel the cool breeze. Starting fresh can be overwhelming and it can make a person anxious. Cool down and remember this isn't the end of the world, it's the beginning of a new one.

## Spring 2019: Tips to successfully Bloom

Here are a few helpful tips to guide you through the semester!

By Manu Noel

Ahh, the spring semester at KBCC. The weather is warmer. The beach is far more enjoyable, and everyone seems happier. But also, classes are starting and with that comes stress, but never fear we've constructed some tips to help you through!

1. Get/Check the Academic Calendar: (Is the campus closed today?) Do you know the last day to apply for a class or to drop one? You can find this and more information on the academic calendar. All the important dates you need will be there. Utilize your resources and stay informed!

2. Check in with your academic advisor: (They don't get paid to sit around, silly) Sometimes navigating independently can be challenging but that's what your academic advisors are here for!

Schedule an appointment if you have any concerns or questions. It'll be worth it in the end.

3. Breathe (1,2,3) Sometimes the semesters can become stressful or overwhelming but it is important to breathe, take a moment to collect yourself and get back out there. We all face different things in our life and it's important you balance that with school. Remember, it's okay to take a moment for yourself.

4. Get your textbooks early (Whoops! should've put this earlier) Oof, don't wait last minute to get your textbooks so that you can keep up with your classes and get the best grades possible. Textbooks are usually listed in your CUNYFirst once you are enrolled in a class.

5. Read your syllabus (Like actually read it, not skim) You know that small packet or sheet of paper your professors usually give you at the start of a semester? Well that's your syllabus, a very essential part to staying in the know. It has all your assignments, rules and requirements on there! Read it!

6. Leave your house a little early (That B1 is no joke) Make it a habit to leave your house a bit early to ensure you make it to class on time, especially if taking public transportation.

7. Balance (Don't let the spring air distract you) During the Spring semester there can be so much work but there is also fun since it's getting warmer. But don't let the warm weather distract you completely. It's important to work hard and play hard - so balance the two. Stay organized but also get that extra order of fries, do your work but also play your sports. Get there on time but also having fun is fine!



## KCC Talks: Who is the Best Baseball Player in New York City?

When the topic of New York's best baseball player is being discussed, you'd expect to hear the names Gehrig or Babe Ruth. But it appears that there are some new greats according to the people of Kingsborough Community College.

By Michael Hicks

People now are very familiar with one of the New York Yankees all-time greats, Derek Jeter. But there still are those other people that believe there's someone else that's the best baseball player in New York City.



"I think the best baseball player in New York is Aaron Judge. He's the most consistent, five-tool player, very good on both sides of the field." –Bruno Bavaro, 20, Liberal Arts major.



"Derek Jeter because he's a legend in this industry." –Lennox Coleman, 22, Criminal Justice major.

"I think the best baseball player in New York is Mark Teixeira. He's a very good baseball player and can bat from both sides of the plate." –Fabian Archilla, 19, Business major.



"The best baseball player in New York is Derek Jeter, he's the true captain of the Yankees." –James Barasch, 19, Liberal Arts major.



"Jeter. He wasn't too cocky about himself. He's still recognized more and has his number out there more." –Johnny Vials, 20, Liberal Arts major.



"Aaron Judge. I think he's a team player. He goes for home runs a lot. However, he needs to learn how to go for base hits also. I think he adds a lot of what Derek Jeter used to give to the Yankees. He has the same type of personality."

–Eric Rothenburg, accounting and economics professor.



"I'm a Mets fan so I'm going to pick someone on the Mets. It's Syndergaard. He's my favorite player right now. My all-time favorite was Nolan Ryan, I watched him pitch when I was a little boy, he burned it." –Billy Cochran, Kingsborough college library employee.

# Yankees and Mets, Will Offseason Changes be the Catalyst for Victory?

It's an interesting time to be a baseball fan, especially in New York.

By Thomas J. Henrich

Being a professional sports team in the big apple is the furthest thing from easy. New York is the home to the most loyal and outspoken fans in the world. If the teams don't perform up to par, the fans will let them know in many ways. In the world of Major League Baseball, there have always been two teams that divide New Yorkers. The Yankees and Mets have clashed many times in the past, in numerous Subway Series bouts and most famously in the 2000 World Series. In 2018, these two franchises ended their seasons in two different frames of direction. The Mets found themselves finishing the season at a record of 77 wins and 85 losses, while the Yankees found themselves at an impressive 100 wins and 62 losses. However, even though one team ended up in a position higher than the other, the reality is that both teams are in need of improvements. This season left them looking for the right pieces to improve their roster and get a better winning chance. The Mets and Yankees have both constructed deals to alter their lineups, rotations, and bullpens.

The Mets spent their offseason saying goodbye to the old, and welcoming the new. Mets captain David Wright played his last game in Queens on September 29th, 2018 and ever since then it has felt like the team has been moving in another direction. Newly hired General Manager Brodie Van Wagenen is set on immersive changes and improvements with

the Mets. One of his main changes is of bringing in more youths and tutelage.

Players like Thomas Nido, Brandon Nimmo, and Jeff McNeil have been making names for themselves this season. However, a team of rookies simply cannot shine on their own. This offseason the Mets welcomed second baseman Robinson Cano back to New York, acquiring him and closer Edwin Diaz from the Seattle Mariners. They signed veteran catcher Wilson Ramos to a two-year agreement and veteran infielder Jed Lowrie to a similar deal. The appearance of veteran players can bring a positive change in performance for a team. Their presences can only make baseball better in Queens. As for pitching, the Mets are in no dire situation as they have always had exceptional performances from their starters. Their ace pitcher and Cy Young award winner, Jacob deGrom, ended the 2018 season with an ERA of 1.70, proving to the world that he deserves all the hype he has received in the past. To be successful this season, the Mets needed veteran players to help shape the future for the younger talent. That being said, it is only a matter of time before we see the results once spring begins.

On the other hand, the Yankees have, for the most part, maintained the roster they had in 2018 and sought to add small additions to it. Like the Mets, the Yankees are looking to youth players. Rookies like Luke Voit, Gleyber Torres, and Miguel



Andujar have put up incredible numbers in 2018. Miguel Andujar was the runner up to Japanese icon Shohei Ohtani for the American League Rookie of the Year Award and has been the topic of many trade rumors. However, Yankee General Manager Brian Cashman has gone on record to deny all trade rumors regarding Andujar. The Yankees have stacked their bullpen even further this offseason, signing Rockies reliever Adam Ottavino to a three year, 27 million dollar contract. With their bullpen at full capacity and with their rotation at a decent pace, their lineup was and is still put in question as to who exactly they signed. With shortstop Didi Gregorius out until August because of an injury, the Bronx Bombers signed veteran Troy Tulowitzki to a short term contract and added the explosive bat of DJ Lemahieu to their lineup picking him up in free agency.

The beauty of the offseason is that until the regular season starts, more deals can be made. With MLB All-Stars Bryce Harper and Manny Machado remaining unsigned, the question remains; will they hit home runs into Monument Park? Or will they launch baseballs over the fence, and watch the Home Run Apple rise? That's what makes the offseason exciting. We just don't know what will happen. It's an interesting time to be a baseball fan, especially in New York.

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## Review: Spider-Man Into The Spider-Verse

Talent and Attention to Detail Impress Audiences.

By William Morton

"Spider-Man: Into The Spider-Verse" was released on December 1, 2018. The story follows Miles Morales (Shameik Moore) as he tries to accept his role as the substitute Spider-Man. The ensemble cast features Jake Johnson as Peter B. Parker, Hailee Steinfeld as Gwen Stacy, Mahershala Ali as Aaron Davis and John Mulaney as Spider-Ham. The film made sure to feature the varied versions of Spider-Man so that comic book fans could rejoice in the pop culture of the character. "Spider-Man: Into The Spider-Verse" has great components such as action, anecdotes and theatrics. In an attempt to copy the flow of comic books, which doesn't have photogenic lens, the film doesn't have motion blur in it, but it does replicate is the sensation of motion. The research that was placed

into the film shows the appreciation for the texturing within comic books.

Miles Morales represents so much ethnically. Miles has an African-American father, and his mother is Puerto Rican, which makes Miles of mixed culture. It's basically the same aspects of the superhero but with melanin and bomba. The story of Spider-Man can resonate in the psyche of those that view it and now with Miles, that adds an extra level of admiration. He has connectivity to those who need positive entertainment. "Spider-Man: Into The Spider-Verse" isn't an individual story, it's a story from the collection of those who have come face to face with their own problems.

The artsy success of the film is a result of talent and attention to detail. The cornucopia of artistry makes it

triumphant. The film shows urban society in its art that isn't omitted such as graffiti on the sides of stores or gum in the rubbish can. The film has humor in regards to consumerism, marketing and pop culture. The film is both introspective and self-reflective and that enhances its quality. The film could inspire artists in which art is their profession by virtue and not in terms of consumerism, but they deserve to do what they love to do. "Spider-Man: Into The Spider-Verse" is cartoonish but poignant, outlandish but amazing, heavy with emotion but spirited. Each superhero in the film represents a recognizable trait. Miles is brave, Peter B. Parker is reluctant and Spider-Ham is hyped with energy. "Spider-Man: Into The Spider-Verse" has an ethnic aura to it and that should continue in the sequel.

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Tuesday, February 5

**Center for Academic Writing  
 Success' Black Identity Panel**  
 10:45am MAC

**Film Screening: 13th**  
 6:00pm MAC Rotunda

Wednesday, February 6

**Think Fast! Black History Trivia**  
 1:00pm Cafeteria

**Center for Academic Writing  
 Success' Black History Read-In**  
 10:50am L-219

Thursday, February 7

**Black History Month Open Mic**  
 Contact C-123 for information on how to participate  
 1:00pm Cafeteria

**Lion King on Broadway**  
 Lottery Open January 22nd-24th  
 Enter at [tinyurl.com/KCCLionKing](http://tinyurl.com/KCCLionKing)  
 7:00pm

Monday, February 11

**Student Life Presents:  
 Know Your Rights Workshop**  
 3:00pm U-112

Wednesday, February 13

**Lunch and a Movie:  
 Blackkklansman**  
 1:00pm MAC

**The Foundation of Today's  
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 6:00pm MAC Rotunda

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