

Pulitzer Prize Winning Writer Anna Quindlen to Speak to Graduates

BY MEGAN MULLER

The cap and gowns have been ordered, credits have been evaluated and announcements sent out to friends and family. The class of 2010 is gearing up for graduation and preparing themselves for the next step in their life. Graduates from January and candidates who have filed for graduation in May and August will be honored for their academic achievements.

May 11, 2010 the Graduate Commencement ceremony will be held at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC).

Students are asked to arrive at the Prudential Hall no later than 5:30 p.m. properly dressed and in a professional lineup in order for the procession to begin at 7 p.m.

Ticketed guests will begin seated at 6:15 p.m. A maximum of three tickets have been allotted for each student



Graduate commencement speaker Anna Quindlen.

(unless the voucher for more has been filled out). For more information about seating as well as directions to the

venue, please visit www.njpac.org

The venue offers a 1,000-car parking garage directly across from NJPAC where guests will be able to park. There are also numerous parking spaces on the street. Be aware that some of the parking options do require a small fee.

Anna Quindlen, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and best selling author, will provide the Commencement audience with an inspiring look into her perspective of this journey called life. At the young age of 18, Quindlen began her career as a copy girl for *The New York Post*. After transferring to *The New York Times*, Quindlen wrote her award-winning column, *Public and Private*.

She is known for providing insight into various issues, ranging from literacy and education, to work and social justice, to medical ethics and family values. She does not show a separation between national

affair and daily life, but rather merges the two ideas, giving a more realistic depiction of reality.

Quindlen left newspapers in 1995 to become a novelist. She has written four best-selling books, including *One True Thing*, which became a film starring Meryl Streep, and *Black and Blue*, which was made into a television movie.

She is a graduate of Barnard College and has nine honorary doctorates, as well as the Medal of Excellence from Columbia University.

At press time, the Honorary Degree recipient was not announced.

Congratulations to the Class of 2010 on behalf of the staff at The Tower.

For more information on the Graduate ceremony please visit <http://www.kean.edu/Graduate>

One of People's Sexiest Men Alive to Speak at Undergraduation Commencement

BY MEGAN MULLER

Four long years have gone by, can you believe it? Four years ago you were strangers, all curious as to what Kean University had in store for you. Now, you will be walking down the aisle as close friends to attain the hard earned degree you've worked so hard for.

On Thursday, May 13, 2010 the Kean University Undergraduate Commencement ceremony will take place at the PNC Bank Arts Center.

More than 20,000 people are expected to attend the Commencement ceremony. Therefore, in order to ensure parking and avoid heavy traffic, guests should allow for extra travel time. Shuttles will be provided for those required to park in more remote sections of the complex.

Punctuality is key in order to ensure the ceremony begins on time and the safety of all parties is a number one priority. If guests arrive to the ceremony late, they will not be escorted to their seats until

after the opening remarks (the procession will not be interrupted).

The schedule is as follows:

7 A.M. Gates will open for guests. Seating will be general admission and on a first-come first-served basis.

8 A.M. Graduates, faculty and staff should arrive for parking no later than this time and fully prepared.

8:30 A.M. Graduates, faculty and staff will begin line-up for ceremony to begin.

9:30 A.M. Procession begins, Rain or Shine. Guests are asked to take their seats prior to the ceremony.

Hill Harper has been chosen as the 2010 Undergraduate Commencement speaker by the Senior Class Representative from Student Org.

He is one of *People* magazine's "Sexiest Men Alive," founder of Manifest your Destiny and more commonly known as Dr. Sheldon Hawkes in the CBS series CSI: New York.

Harper earned an undergraduate degree *magna cum laude* from Brown University,

a Masters in Public Administration from the Kennedy School of Government, and



Undergraduate commencement speaker Hill Harper.

a J.D. *cum laude* from Harvard Law School. He is also a member of the Obama National Finance Committee, and a member of

Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity.

Harper authored two New York Times best-sellers; *Letters to a Young Brother: MANifest Your Destiny* (2006) and *Letters to a Young Sister: DeFINE Your Destiny* (2008). These books detail practical advice and examples of perseverance in order to convey a message of hope, education and commitment.

Harper is also the founder of the Manifest Your Destiny Foundation, a nonprofit youth organization which is dedicated to empowering, encouraging and inspiring underserved youth to succeed with the help of mentorship, scholarship and grant programs.

At press time, the Honorary Degree recipient had yet to be disclosed.

Congratulations to the Graduating class of 2010 on behalf of The Tower staff.

For more information on the Undergraduate ceremony please visit <http://www.kean.edu/Commencement>

Kean Invites All to Open Forum on Middle States

The Middle States Executive and Steering Committees invite all members of the campus community to an Open Forum on Kean's self-study process on Tuesday, May 4 from 3:30 – 5 p.m. in the Little Theater.

Presentation topics include an overview of Middle States standards, the self-study research design and process, a review of preliminary findings, related action plans and initiatives currently underway, and the calendar for completing, reviewing, and submitting the Self Study.

Attendees will have the opportunity to pose their questions/comments about information presented and related topics.

Buyer Beware: Cheap M.A.C. Products are Fakes

BY LILLIE MORALES-TORRES

This month, a few friends and I learned a tough beauty lesson by dealing with a woman who calls herself the “M.A.C. Lady.” A woman who sells high-end beauty products at the University Center’s flea market. Counterfeit beauty products that is.

The “M.A.C. Lady” has sold her products to many faculty members, students, and teachers on campus for the past two years. But she has never had problems or complaints until recently when the authenticity of her M.A.C. products was questioned.

Communications major, Daniella Atunez is a big fan of M.A.C. beauty products. Inside her bag she carries a cosmetic pouch filled with brushes, lip glosses, foundation, and eye shadows all of the M.A.C. name brand. Atunez spends a good amount of money on these products because she loves the quality M.A.C. products have to offer. She discovered the “M.A.C. Lady” only a couple of weeks ago.

“I was very excited at the beginning,” says Atunez, “when I saw the M.A.C. products being sold so cheap, I thought –I could afford more because it’s less than store prices! I bought 3 eye shadows at first. The next week I went back with my girlfriends from work and bought 4 eye shadows, a lipstick, eyeliner, and two pigment eye shadows.”

Everything at the “MAC Lady’s” table looked authentic. But as they say, looks can surely be deceiving. When asked if they were real, she assured us they all came from the warehouse. That day, we purchased about \$100 all together from the so called “M.A.C. Lady.” And like little girls coming from a candy store, we left the University Center full of excitement. But after playing make up, we discovered some strange things about the products.

First, Atunez discovered that the eye shadows have a mirror on the bottom with a sponge applicator that flipped out. This was different because usually M.A.C. eye shadows do not have this feature. The eye shadow palettes were also something we have never seen at a M.A.C. store. They

are black plastic cases that have a black top with a mirror and sponge applicator containing 12 different eye shadow colors which have no color description on the box. The real M.A.C. palettes are either the magnetic kind which you build yourself, a black plastic case with a clear top and color descriptions on the back, or the special edition palettes that come out around the holidays.



Next, the eyeliners have a gray soft plastic cap, no color description and a barcode printed on them. M.A.C. eyeliners always have a color description, black hard plastic caps, and no barcodes. But the worst thing was the cheap smell and thin texture of the fake lip glosses. The real lip glosses do not have any odor and the texture is usually thick and rich. On top of that, all of the items have the same serial numbers.

Our discoveries and research made us suspicious and almost sure that we were sold fake products. Daniella called M.A.C. and personally went to confirm that the products were fakes. I researched online and found tons of videos on youtube.com and articles on this issue and later chatted and spoke to M.A.C. artists myself.

We were very surprised that people would even make and sell fake make up. One thing is to sport a knock-off designer bag or jewelry, but something that goes onto your skin is a definite no.

In my online research, I found that this issue doesn’t bother some people. But it is serious. These fake products may contain ingredients such as coal tar to phthalate and other dangerous additives. Also, it



Kean Students, Manella Atunez (left) and Mariela Roberts (above) check out fake M.A.C. Products.

is unknown what black market activity profits from making these counterfeits go towards. Most of them are coming from places like Thailand and Hong Kong.

Many M.A.C. stores and kiosks are unaware of this fraudulent act. M.A.C. Artist of Bloomingdale’s in the Short Hills Mall, Nicole Rojas says she has never heard of this problem until now.

“This is not something I really knew about but I think it’s important that people watch out for this and not use these counterfeit products.” Says Rojas, “Our products are FDA approved and go through high quality testing. Fake ones can be watered down or old- you don’t really know what’s in them and you’re skin can have a bad reaction.”

When confronting the “M.A.C. Lady,” we simply asked her for a refund. We did not want any problems. But she acted in a very unprofessional manner and refused to issue a refund. She claimed that her products are all real and that she gets

everything from the M.A.C. warehouse which does not even exist.

Maccosmetics.com states, “Our products are distributed for sale only at our authorized retail store accounts, the majority of which are located in major department stores or international perfumeries. We do not offer franchises.”

M.A.C. does not sell in bulk or offer independent selling opportunities like Avon or Mary Kay for example. If you care about what goes on your face, the safest way to buy make up products is from an official store or kiosk. Watch out for cheap products on eBay, independent sellers, or “M.A.C. Parties.” You may get cheated like we did. If you suspect fake M.A.C. products, you can also chat with an artist online. I chatted with one and discussed the situation with her.

Maccosmetics.com Artist, Mary-Ann says, “There are sites and people selling our products that are not authorized retailers of our products. This means that they do not obtain the MAC products they sell through us, which does not allow us to exercise quality control over products they sell. We cannot guarantee the freshness or authenticity of the products they sell.”

The “M.A.C. Lady” did not refund us. She was very unprofessional and did not try to work anything out. Instead she became upset using foul language against us and quickly packed up her counterfeit items bolting out the door of the University Center. It was not our intention to make her leave but in a way, she was doing everyone a favor. She was cheating students and teachers for 2 years already. No one ever suspected that she was a fraud but it was only a matter of time. Her time ran out and she ran away with it.

“I bought some eye shadows from her and when I found it they were fakes I was upset but I will keep using them because I like the colors.” Says Communications major, Mariela Rodriguez who witnessed the “M.A.C. Lady’s escape. “But her leaving like that shows that she was running from the truth. She knew what she was selling and that’s wrong.”

New Solution to Stop Paying Outrageous Prices for Textbooks

BY MEGAN MULLER

Attention students of Kean University. There is now a much needed solution to your biggest problem. You will no longer have to cough up your hard earned cash to purchase the ridiculously overpriced textbooks for each semester.

“I think the books are extremely overpriced. \$600 on books? I could have booked a flight for a vacation with that money! But instead I spend it on books that come the time when the bookstore buys them back, I will not even get half of what I spent back,” said Deyna Jeckell, a junior Communication major at Kean.

Today, there are many options to textbook buying such as renting textbooks, purchasing iChapters and eTextbooks. ETextbooks are digital versions of print textbooks. These books are read on the

computer screen and frequently come with features such as high-speed search and electronic note-taking. Websites such as *CourseSmart.com*, *Amazon.com* and *CengageBrain.com* (previously *ichapters.com*) offer eTextbooks at up to 50% off the retail price.

“I COULD HAVE BOOKED A FLIGHT FOR A VACATION WITH THAT MONEY!”

Cengage Learning, a major textbook publisher, recently launched a valuable resource for students, CengageBrain.com. This retail outlet provides students the opportunity to purchase iChapters of textbooks rather than the entire book. Students will be able to purchase chap-

ters online as you go through the course for prices as low as \$3.99 each rather than purchasing the entire textbook.

“From past experience, my professors only occasionally open the book, therefore the hole that has been burnt in your pocket already has just gotten worse,” said Shawn Albanese, a junior Secondary English Education major at Kean.

On average, students will be reimbursed half of the original purchase price of their textbook at the semester end. A more economical option for students is to rent a textbook. Chegg.com, the leading retailer in textbook rentals, offers three rental pe-

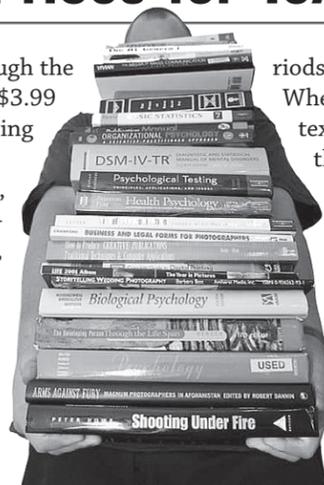


Photo: Google Images

riods for students to choose from. When you are finished with the textbook simply send it back to the company.

Many of the previously mentioned websites offer other materials to help you succeed in your classes. CengageBrain.com is currently offering a broad range of homework and study tools, a selection of free content and discounts for purchasing multiple products.

Do your research before purchasing your textbooks. You’ll be surprised at how much money you can save on textbooks and put towards your next vacation!

HEALTH & FITNESS

A SALUTE TO KEAN'S SCHOLAR-ATHLETES

BY DR. JOSH PALGI & JESSICA ADAMS

"Colleges Owe Players an Education" was the topic of an article published by *The Star-Ledger* Editorial Board on March 27. The article quoted Arne Duncan, the secretary of the U.S Department of Education, saying that "there is something terribly wrong when a college fails to graduate 40 percent of its basketball players." He was asking the NCAA to ban these schools from participating in post-season tournaments. Under the secretary's proposal, 12 of the 65 schools that earned a berth in this year's NCAA men's basketball tournament would have been prohibited from playing.



According to a study released by the Institute for Diversity, Ethics and Sports at the University of Central Florida, white males on tournament teams graduated at a rate of 84 percent, while the rate for African-American players was 56 percent. The rate for African-Americans at Maryland and California during the six year study was zero.

Two weeks after the conclusion of March Madness on April 12th, the Kean University Department of Athletics honored more than 160 student-athletes. There were 90 Honorable Mention student athletes (3.0 GPA and less than 56 credits), 72 scholar athletes (3.0 GPA and minimum of 56 credits), and 14 student athletes who were inducted into Chi-Alfa Sigma, The National College Athlete Honor Society (at least 56 credits with 3.4 GPA).

It was a day to celebrate and recognize outstanding student-athletes who have achieved excellence in academics and athletics, while having made a significant contribution to the Kean community.

Drs. Josh Palgi and Jessica Adams are professors in the Kean University, Physical Education, Recreation, and Health Department.

The 14 inducted into Chi-Alfa Sigma

Raz Avraham Track and Field

Stephon Cooper Football

Vincent Darpino Men's basketball

Thomas Denehy Football

Joseph Dimeglio Track and Field

Matthew Gough Track and Field

Sarah Hamm Softball

Elizabeth Hatos Track and Field

Christopher Pegeron Track and Field

Sean Peterson Men's Lacrosse

Matthew Puorro Football

Joelle Vitale Field Hockey/Lacrosse

Randi Vizoco Women's Soccer

Kyle Walker Baseball

ESSAY

SHOPPING FOR LABELS, SHOPPING FOR LOVE

BY MEGAN MULLER

I watched the television series and own all the shows on DVD. I have watched the movie so many times that I can repeat many of the lines. And now, I have a count-down to when the sequel will hit theaters, May 27 for those who are living under a rock. I am proud to announce that *Sex & The City* is my anti-drug.

I just adore watching Carrie, Samantha, Charlotte and Miranda. These women have been and continue to be four women whom I idolize. I watch them go through the ups and downs (and sometimes sideways depending on who is in Samantha's bed) of life, and each time their bond becomes stronger.

I adore Charlotte, the wholesome Stepford Wife type. Her love for her husband and children is admirable. She may have been marriage-crazy in earlier seasons, but once she met Harry, her bald Jewish love, she showed me that it's possible to love someone for their personality. She fell in love with Harry's heart and not his physical appearance. This tells me that

I'll be married sometime in my 30's because as a 25-year-old woman I still want the man to be my arm-candy. Thank you, Charlotte, for reminding me that one day everything will fall into place.

"I HOPE TO BE HALF THE WOMAN YOU ARE WITH TWICE THE SHOE COLLECTION."

I adore Miranda, the strong-willed, independent lawyer. This woman is a pale red-head (a lesbian in real life who sucks it up and dates men for good ratings; that in and of itself is a high-five) who has imperfections and an imperfect body, yet embraces it and picks up some gorgeous men. She has shown me through the years that it doesn't matter if my stomach jiggles when I laugh or if my arms look a little chubby in tank tops. Thank you, Miranda, for reminding me that my body is a temple and deserves to be worshipped.

I adore Samantha, the blonde bombshell who dates men half her age and does it with pride. This woman embraces her sexuality and does exactly what she wants, when she wants and how she wants to do



it. She is not ashamed of being a powerful single woman and lives her life to the fullest. I envy her self-esteem and ability to not care what other people think of her. One day I hope to have that high of self-

regard so thank you for Samantha for just being you.

And lastly, there's Carrie. Oh the dear Carrie Bradshaw. Her writing is what I try to shadow as best I can. She is so creative and gets her thoughts out in such a simple, but direct way—something I'm still working on. This poor woman has had her heart placed on a pedestal then ripped apart and stepped on more ways than she can count and yet she puts on those Manolo Blahnik pumps and goes right back out for more. Carrie, one day I hope to be half the woman you are with twice the shoe collection!

So as I count down the days until *Sex & The City 2* braces me with its presence, I watch and re-watch the bond grow of these four women. I smile when they're happy at their weekly Sunday brunch, cry when yet another man breaks their heart and become green with envy as they stroll the New York City streets with bags upon bags of gorgeous shoes.

Ahh A girl can dream can't she?