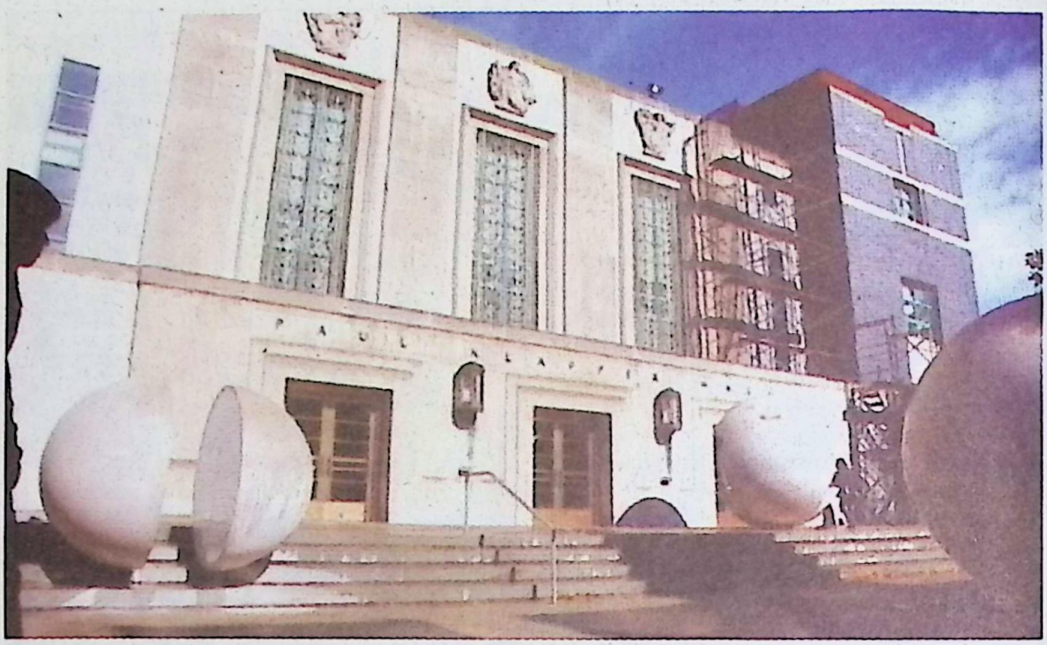


GRADUATION

Nabila Chowdhury

CUNY is the City University of New York. It is the nation's leading urban public university serving more than 480,000 students at 23 colleges and institutions in New York City. It is the largest university in the United States, and the 23 institutions include 11 senior colleges, six community colleges, the William E. Macaulay Honors College at CUNY, the doctorate-granting Graduate School and University Center, the City University of New York School of Law, CUNY Graduate School of Journalism, and the Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education.

CUNY students are very diverse who come from over 205 countries. The black, Caucasian, and Hispanic undergraduate populations all together complete an approximate of a quarter of the student body, and Asian undergraduates complete about 15 percent.

My under-graduate experience and the journey at CUNY Queens College was magnificent. Each of the long lasting, fun-filled years held many outstanding moments. During these last years, I have created countless memories. Along the way, I have had the opportunity to meet great faculty members, a varied group of new people, and made some lifetime friends.

My first year in Queens College was frightening. I still remember being very quiet and shy. Most of the time I used to sit in the corner of the room, and not talk much. However, now among the whole group of friends that I have, I am known as the most outgoing one. I started this journey with the Sociology, Philolosophy, Geology and Math class.

Completion of an undergraduate bachelors degree requires the completion of 120 credits.

I spent my first two years in completing the basic requirements. I had a great experience as I exposed myself to a different environment and professors. The most memorable courses include Islamic Music and Culture taught by the very well known and famous Muslim rock star Salman Ahmad. He has remained the lead guitarist and composer of the first rockstar and popular band group, "Junoon," in Pakistan. It was an honour to be a part of his class. We learned about Sufi music, history of Qawwali, background information and success of famous musicians like Cat Stevens who is now Yusuf Islam, The Beatles, Ahmad Zahir the most popular hip-hop musician of Afghanistan and also about Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan. In addition, Professor Ahmad shared thoughts about his personal struggle as he traveled back to Pakistan, and met mullah's to share the thought that music is not sinful and should not be banned from the citizens living there. His struggle still lives till today, and it actually led him to write a book titled, "Rock & Roll Jihad: A Muslim Rock Star's Revolution."