

THE GOTHIC TIMES

The Official Student Newspaper of New Jersey City University

ORDER TO GO?

By Monir Khilla

The fate of the food trucks that serve the NJCU campus community remains up in the air. A proposed law that would force the food trucks to move every 20 minutes was introduced by the Jersey City council at the end of 2011 – but that ordinance has been tabled.

City officials said at press time there were no plans to reintroduce it. “It’s not on the agenda for the upcoming meetings yet,” said an official with the Jersey City clerk’s office. The ordinance was tabled after an outpouring of concern from the campus community. City officials claim to have received an onslaught of e-mails and phone calls protesting the law.

The reason the law was introduced was due to many restaurant complaints from the downtown

area of Jersey City. Food trucks park in front of restaurants and take away business, prompting restaurant owners to complain.

Gus Papathanasis, owner of “Gus’s Breakfast and Lunch,” and his brother William Papathanasis, owner of “Bill’s Lunch Truck,” have been catering to the campus community for over 27 years, along with their colleague Jose Gomez and Ivan Velez, respectively. Gus operates on Kennedy Blvd., while his brother, William (“Billy”) has been operating on Audubon Avenue.

They have never had a problem with being forced to move – until recently. “On Wednesday [December 14, 2011] they made us move,” said Gus, “They [the city] told me I had to move every 20 minutes and I can only come back to the same spot after four hours”

Gus thinks that “The city should let us stay in the same spot; I would pay just so I can stay.” Wynalda Philippe, 21, Biology major, from Irvington said that, “The school food is expensive and this food is convenient.”

Philippe thinks that, “[The city] should let them stay where they are. They’re not bothering anyone. If someone wants to go to a restaurant, let them, it’s their choice.”

Theresa Tredwell, graduate student in Literacy Education, from Jersey City, said that she has been going to “Gus’s Breakfast and Lunch” since 1999.

“Last time they made them move [in 2009], we were furious. We made flyers and posted them everywhere. We were saying ‘GET OUR TRUCKS BACK!’”

In offering a solution Tredwell said that, “The city should let



Photo by Monir Khilla

Food truck owner, William Papathanasis, (in truck on the left) and Ivan prepare to serve students Liz Jimene, lower left and Michelle Rodriguez, lower right.

them stay. It’s an urban school and not everyone can afford the prices. The city should give them a license or whatever they need to stay.”

Gus said “The school should call [the city] and tell them to let us stay. I have great prices. I know a lot of students don’t have money, so I haven’t raised my soda prices in almost twenty years. Some of my other prices haven’t been raised in five or more years.”

William was furious with the city and said, “Two weeks before the new year, they made us move, now they said they’re going to fix everything, but it’s not broken. So what needs to be fixed?” His so-

lution is simple: “Leave us alone. I pay my taxes and insurances here in Jersey City and have been for many, many years.”

After being forced to move in 2009 and again now, William said, “I’ve gotten tired of this crap, after all these years.”

“We would like to thank the campus community,” said William, “I have two sons, 14 and 16 years old, that I have to support.”

Additional reporting by Gothic Times staff.



Photo by Monir Khilla

Monir Khilla enjoys a California burger with bacon.

Urban Lenses of Felix Rodriguez

By Atilla Azami

Nearly 35,000 years ago, someone in Chauvet-Pont-d’Arc Cave painted, using organic pigment, a row of neatly juxtaposed horses, without the presence of the impact it would have on the contemporary archaeological world as the oldest painting to be found to date. The need to project the world seen through our lenses is, perhaps, the most distinguishing trait that sets us apart from all other species of fauna.

Unlike the enigmatic Paleolithic artist, Felix Rodriguez,



Photo by Felix Rodriguez from unusualtomorrowfilms.com

22, a Media Arts major, currently resides in Jersey City while attending NJCU, uses a Canon EOS 60D, polycarbonate resin with glass fiber on aluminum chassis, articulate screen with a prime lens for his projections. The stark contrast between the artists is solely

technological. Rodriguez’s ability to capture the essence of the particular subject of the shot is as organic as the ochre used in the caves of Chauvet.

Originally from the Bronx, Rodriguez’s work is immersed in the concrete jungle of an urban environment.

When asked how settings as such have influenced his work, he responded, “I am fascinated with the diversity of cities – the amalgamation of races and cultures is brilliant and alive. Visually, it’s an extraordinarily rich, dense, textured space. We live in a

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Easy access to The Gothic Times

by Rafal Rogoza

GothicTimes.net, the official website of NJCU’s student newspaper, is now available to the student body. The web version of The Gothic Times includes all the content of the print version, up to date articles, and additional multimedia showcasing people and events on campus.

“I’m completely ecstatic that we have the new website up and running. It gives our readers easy access to the campus news,” said Allison Lozada, The Gothic Times Editor in Chief.

The new web version of The Gothic Times is a replacement of the now defunct GothicTimesNetwork.com which has been inactive since March 2011. During the 2011 fall semester The Gothic Times staff collaborated with Media Trends, a NJ based media company, in designing the website.

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NEWS

Class consolidations and cancellations become scheduling nightmare for some students

By Rafal Rogoza

Many academic departments were subject to class consolidations and cancellations this spring semester due to the University's continuing effort to overcome a budget deficit. According to the registrar's Spring 2012 Cancellation List, numerous class sections were cancelled, which frustrated some students and relieved others.

"For weeks I was overjoyed with my enrollment in a drama literature class," said Geraldine Lopez, 22, Psychology major from Jersey City. "Sadly, I received a NJCU email informing [me] that it was cancelled."

Lopez received a notice on December 19, 2011 that her English 230 Drama of Greece and Rome

"[The cancelled] course fit perfectly with my schedule. I had to enroll in another course quickly, but it wasn't easy because many of them were not available or overlapped with my enrolled courses"

Geraldine Lopez
Psychology major, 22,
Jersey City



Photo by njcu.edu

Students at the library.

class was canceled forcing her to quickly find another class that could fit into her busy schedule.

"That course fit perfectly with my schedule. I had to enroll in another course quickly, but it wasn't easy because many of them were not available or overlapped with my enrolled courses," said Lopez.

Working with an advisor from the English department Lopez was able to enroll in an English Thematic Studies class.

"It does not accommodate my work schedule," remarked Lopez, "and it's something I have to work out with my employer."

Other students, like Priscila Antigua, 21, Biology major from Jersey City, were spared the hassle and disappointment that plagued Lopez.

"No they haven't cut my classes but I've noticed that they don't have as many," said Antigua. "Certain classes I had to take at night. Usually, I try to take day classes because I don't like night classes, but being that they cut certain classes I have to take more night classes."

According to Joanne Bruno,

Vice President of Academic Advancement, there weren't any drastic changes in the University's class cancellation procedure. Bruno did emphasize that the University was being more fiscally responsible.

"We're being more efficient," said Bruno, "With the need to really keep tuition affordable, we're still the lowest in tuition or next to lowest in the state, something has to give."

"So really even though we have severe budget concerns, my job, as well as all the other Vice Presidents', is to balance the budget and we're constantly looking at that but nothing has really changed from what I did," said Bruno.

Bruno stated that the reason classes are cancelled is low class enrollment.

"It is purely the cost and benefit analysis. If I don't have 10 students in an undergraduate class to run it is very hard to pay for that class. There are significant labor costs, which I'm in full support of by the way because I want the best faculty teaching the course and so do the Deans," remarked Bruno, "But if we have

less than 10 students enrolled in the class than we have to cancel it."

The University's three Deans worked with their Department Chairs on class schedules and cancellations.

"We haven't done anything different," said Dr. Barbara Feldman, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. According to Feldman, classes were cut as they usually are because of low enrollment.

Dr. Allan A. De Fina, Dean of the College of Education, said class cuts were nothing out of the ordinary and that they were based on low enrollment. Dr. De Fina did mention that extra class sections were added where needed.

"Sections have been combined but we have opened sections for classes of a large size," remarked Dr. De Fina.

When asked if classes were crowded Dr. De Fina replied, "Class sizes are not increasing dramatically, maybe two to three students."

Dean of the College of Professional Studies,

Dr. Sandra Bloomberg, said that cuts were made in all departments and that she knows of only one student who had scheduling problems that could potentially delay his graduation. Working with faculty, Dr. Bloomberg was able to accommodate that student with an independent study course.

When asked why students were informed so late about class cuts Dr. Bloomberg said, "Cuts were made early before students registered to avoid problems. Those cuts made recently were made because of low enrollment."

According to Bruno, the Deans are very receptive and if there is a way to accommodate students everything will be done to do so.

Asked what students should do to avoid class cancellation issues, Dr. De Fina said "if they [students] are concerned they should see their advisors early



Photo by njcu.edu

Students sharing notes.

before registration. Advisement is key because it helps us accommodate them [students]."

How is the University progressing with its budget deficit?

"I think we're practically there with what we've done with the consolidation of classes. We still have to get through Summer One," said Bruno.

Our student link to the NJCU Board of Trustees

By Monir Khilla

Gerald Cameron, 21, Political Science major from Jersey City became a non-voting student member in the New Jersey City University's Board of Trustees. Cameron applied for a nomination through the Student Government Organization and met the criteria to be nominated. The position is broken down into two one-year terms. The first year is a non-voting position and the second is a voting position. Though Cameron has no voting rights yet, he can speak on the board to represent the student body.

Students have already come forward to voice concerns to Cameron. "I've been approached by students who feel that there are too many General Education (Gen Ed) requirements. The Gen Ed's we do have to take aren't challenging when compared to the Gen Ed's of Rutgers University which is more structured. Personally, I don't think it makes any sense and wastes time and money. General education should be focused on your major."

Cameron says, "I basically am there to be a voice and to be a bridge between the Student Government and their concerns and voice the concerns the Board of



Photo by facebook.com

Gerald Cameron center, Rafael Perez right, Dr. Carlos Hernandez left

Trustees has."

"I decided to go for the position out of frustration of the current administration. There's so much internally going on in the school that's not transparent. Aside from the administrative aspects, there are educational aspects. One of my professors was at a faculty meeting with the rest of the faculty at school and one of the professors said that there's no need to challenge 'these students' because they're 'only NJCU students.'"

The disparaging remarks and the increasing costs of education pushed Cameron to become more involved with the school.

"Why are we paying the bulk of administrative fees? Why can't we raise our funding through research or cutting-edge

programs?" said Cameron.

"Other issues that need to be addressed is the diversity issue when it comes to scholarships. If we want to create a more - diverse community, we need to have more diverse scholarship programs. Wholly, Blacks are still disadvantaged. From a minority perspective, I feel the school is not more accepting to other minorities who are non - Hispanic when it comes to scholarships."

The pressing issues prompted Cameron to make calls, and try to advance the school, and even start an honor's program.

"The school doesn't give incentives for people to work hard. We wonder why students to go other universities and it's because of reasons is like this."

Cameron said that his goal in the next two years is, "To see change happen. I want to see the issue of safety be solved, I want to push for better academic standards, and bring transparency to the process of picking a new University President. I want the student body to be more active in selecting our new president and to really ask questions when it comes to credentials," said

Cameron.

In closing, Cameron said, "I would like students to be more involved in the workings of the school. NJCU is like a business and we're all shareholders in the university: if we pull out, we can hurt the institution; If we invest more, we can help bring more wealth to the institution. We should exercise this power more."



Write it down!

Join the staff of *The Gothic Times*.

You can always contact us by e-mailing gothictimes@gmail.com or stopping by the office at GSUB 301.

NEWS

NJCU's own elected to Jersey City Council

By Monir Khilla

Rolando Lavarro, who has worked at New Jersey City University as the Assistant Director for Grants and Sponsored Programs for the past four years, was elected Councilman-At-Large for Jersey City on November 8, 2011 and was sworn in on November 21st. Lavarro is the first Filipino American to be elected to City Council in Jersey City.

When asked why he decided to run for public office, Lavarro said, "I decided to run on the day when President Obama was sworn in back in 2009. I heard him speak to the nation about the urgency of contributing and giving back to the community. That was when I decided to run for local office."

Lavarro said that he ran with the intention of fighting for a priority-based budget and improving the quality of life and public safety of Jersey City residents.

"I'm going to work hard for the next 17 months to make Jersey City a more affordable, safer, and vibrant place for people to live and work, including our students and academic community," said Lavarro.

Lavarro's campaign slogan was "Commitment to Service" and he encourages anyone who wants to take on the same challenge to come forward. "My door is always open and I'm here to serve. If anyone has innovative or proven ideas to improve Jersey City, I'm here to listen and move the City forward."

In looking to the future, Lavarro said, "We hope to create a Jersey City that lives up to and supports the individual aspirations of everyone in the community. I want to create an environment in Jersey City that will allow NJCU to fulfill its mission and be a premier higher education institution in New Jersey."

Lavarro was born in New

Brunswick after his parents immigrated to the United States from the Philippines. His family also spent a number of years living in Illinois, Wisconsin, Missouri, and North Dakota, before finally settling in Jersey City when he was seven.

Lavarro attended St Paul's Grammar School and St. Peter's Preparatory High School in Jersey City. He graduated from New York University's Stern School of Business where he earned his degree in Marketing with a Philosophy minor. After finishing college, he worked in various community and local jobs including non-profit organizations. In the political realm, he served as Aide to Jersey City Councilwoman Mary Donnelly, and as the Director of Constituent Services for then New Jersey State Assemblyman (now Senator) Bob Gordon.

Lavarro currently lives in the Greenville section of Jersey City with his wife Veronica and baby daughter Gabriela.



www.rolandolavarro.com

Jersey City Councilman Rolando Lavarro

SGO creates fund to help students pay for books

By Rafal Rogoza

Student Council passed a motion that will help students pay for textbooks by creating new Student Government Organization (SGO) book vouchers that will be available for students in the Fall semester of 2013.

The motion was passed during the December 12, 2011 council meeting. Council decided to transfer \$50,000 to establish a new SGO endowment fund. The NJCU Foundation has matched the \$50,000, raising the total of the fund to \$100,000. The book voucher will be financed by the interested collected by the fund.

"This endowed fund will develop interest which will be utilized to award students with book vouchers that will assist them [students] with the purchase of books, which prices keep increasing yearly," said Aurora Estevez, SGO Vice President of Finance and Administration.

According to Estevez, the endowed fund received full support from the finance committee and council. Discussions did arise among committee members about using the money to create an additional SGO scholarship. The committee settled on the book voucher because it would help more students.

"We will continue to work on finalizing all the transactions of the money as well as logistics of this book voucher this spring semester and then students will have to wait a year to benefit from this [book voucher]," said Estevez.

Estevez expects that students will be able to take advantage of the book voucher beginning the fall semester of 2013.

The council has not yet discussed how the vouchers will be awarded to students. Estevez stressed that the council still needs to work out the details but believes that the voucher will be available based on a student's financial needs.

"I would consider it," answered Priscila Antigua, 21, biology major from Jersey City, when asked if she would apply for the voucher. Antigua spent \$500 on books during the fall semester and has used existing book vouchers to help cover some of the costs. According to Antigua, biology books



NJCU Campus bookstore

Photo by Monir Khilla



Photo by Aurora Estevez

Aurora Estevez, SGO Vice President of Finance and Administration

Estevez expects that students will be able to take advantage of the book voucher beginning the fall semester of 2013.

are expensive and the \$400 voucher she receives is not enough. "One book may be \$250 and they change books all the time," said Antigua.

Aibaliz Campoverde, 18, sociology major

from Jersey City, and her friend Lashea Ducksome, 19, art therapy major from Newark, both think the book voucher is a good idea. They each spent \$200 on books during the fall semester and use vouchers from the Opportunity Scholarship Program.

"Since we go through the OSP we get help, but for others it would definitely be helpful," said Campoverde.

For more information about the book voucher students should contact Aurora Estevez at aestevez31@hotmail.com. For additional information on SGO scholarships students should contact SGO President Michael Faivush.



GothicTimes.net

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GothicTimes.net includes all the sections readers are familiar with such as news, lifestyle, feature, arts & entertainment, opinion and advice and sports. Previous issues of the print version of the newspaper can also be viewed in PDF format.

Most importantly, the website gives students the opportunity to voice their opinions and concerns on featured stories. *The Gothic Times* staff encourages readers to participate in online discussions so that we may better our coverage of issues that are relevant to the student body.

GothicTimes.net is not limited to traditional journalism. The website makes it possible to view videos and music created by NJCU students. Currently, the site features "The Edge of All You Know" a short documentary produced and directed by talented NJCU filmmaker Felix Rodriquez. *The Gothic Times* staff urges artists of various type to share their work with the NJCU community.

The work of student writers who have participated in the Journalism Capstone course are also available on *GothicTimes.net*. Journalism Capstone focused on long form stories with an urban theme. Great stories by NJCU wordsmiths like Felix Alaracon, Alberto Arias, and Alex Johanesen, among others, are accessible to interested readers.

The *GothicTimes.net* should not be considered only as a news website but as a communication platform that exposes the NJCU community to the talent that nests and matures on campus. *The Gothic Times* staff looks forward to putting *GothicTimes.net* to use for the benefit of the University as a whole.

ART & ENTERTAINMENT

NJCU's Own Black Maria Film & Video Festival opens Feb. 3

By Jan Aguilos

The 31st Annual Black Maria Film & Video Festival opens on Friday, February 3 at 7:30 pm in the Margaret Williams Theater. It showcases short films from around the country as well as the work of NJCU students.

John Columbus, the founder and Director of the Black Maria Film and Video Festival, said that after Jersey City, the festival then makes the rounds in 22 states coast, to coast in about 60 colleges, museums, and other centers of culture.

Some past locations that the festival has traveled to after the openings at NJCU were the National Gallery of Art, Princeton University, Monmouth University, the Des Moines Center for the Arts, the University of Colorado, among others.

"The mission of the film festival is to support the art of non-commercial film making," said Columbus.

Columbus estimates that there are 400 submissions every year

for the festival, which get whittled down to usually around 70 short films. The process takes four months and it involves the picks of a three-person jury as well as the Director.

Columbus, who named the festival after Thomas Edison's famed first movie studio, has been enthusiastic in his support of short films from the beginning of the festival.

"I believe in the short format and was always committed to the notion that shorts were as legitimate and worthwhile as feature length films," said Columbus, who also noted that short films were more egalitarian in that they don't require as much time and resources on feature length films.

What many NJCU students may not know is that the Black Maria Film & Video Festival is headquartered in Fries Hall, where the Media Arts Department is located.

Helping John Columbus is full-time staff member Kerrie Young, a 2009 NJCU grad hail-

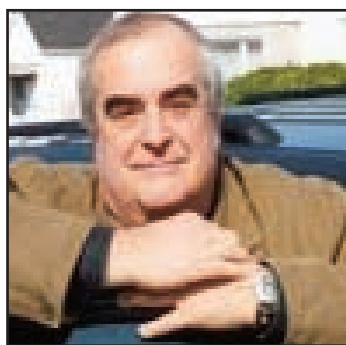


Photo by blackmariafilmfestival.org

John Columbus

ing from the Media Arts Department.

Her multiple responsibilities include coordinating the 60 programs in the 22 states across the country, curating film programs, and administrative duties.

"While John is on the road touring with the festival," said Young, "I essentially hold down the fort at our NJCU home office."

Young first interned for the festival when she was a freshman at NJCU and considers her experiences there as helpful in

learning about films.

"Working at the Black Maria has broadened my knowledge of the business aspect of the film industry, film history, film genres, and film techniques," added Young.

Her first film was "Lee Hagan: Connecting Generations," which she did in association with Dr. Antoinette Ellis-Williams of the Lee Hagan Africana Center and Women's and Gender Studies department.

When John Columbus was asked how he hopes the audience will receive the opening screening on Friday February 3 at 7:30 pm in the Margaret Williams Theater, he said: "Audience members will see work that they would never see otherwise in the kind of synergistic, diverse, culturally enriching, fun and illuminating programs we provide."

Felix Rodriguez, a 22 year old senior and Media Arts major, submitted his film "Cinco/Cero/Cinco" for the fes-



Photo by blackmariafilmfestival.org

Kerrie Young

tival. He has also attended the openings at the Margaret Williams Theater in the past and has enjoyed the short films shown.

"I think they are world class films," said Rodriguez, who looks forward to graduating in May.

Rodriguez, who owns a production company called Lifting the Veil Production and is in the U.S. Army Reserves, is a veteran of film screenings.

"It's a stepping stone to greater things," added the young filmmaker.

Felix Rodriguez

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Photo by Felix Rodriguez
Felix Rodriguez

modern industrial goldmine."

He elaborated further, "Chuck Close has a quote that goes 'inspiration is for amateurs; the rest of us just show up and get to work.' I always liked the quote, because I never consciously said to myself 'I dream of becoming a filmmaker.' It just happened. Now I'm not trying to go all Tim Tebow on you or anything, but my relationship with Jesus has had an enormous impact on my work and my life, and it's the reason why I do it."

Rodriguez's love for his fellow man is very much evident in his work, such as "Immigration Stories", in which he examines the migration hub of Ellis Island to remind us the principles of tolerance that shaped this country, an outlook recently challenged by the current political climate. However, the values adopted by his chief 'inspirational' relationship of 'love thy neighbor' could be best summed up in his a day in the life film, "Red Light Larry".

What are some of the things that set apart the urban from the boondocks? Some might say, the frequent sighting of hobos is as distinct of a trait to tell the two apart as stripes on a zebra compared to a horse. "Red Light Larry" is a short film about a homeless man, Larry, who spends his days panhandling in the bustling intersection of Communipaw and Route 440. Rodriguez transforms Larry, from a tell-tale urban prop, to a surprisingly articulate, personable businessman, whose sole aim in the highway grind is to "MAKE MONEY." Rodriguez joins the 61-year-old former bus driver as he solicits

drivers halted by expected congestion of a busy intersection for loose change, sometimes, surprised with Washingtons. All of the interactions are interesting: as some shrug; some throw their hands up to plead indigence; others, know him by name; but, they all remember the joyful guffaw that he bellows with almost every financial or verbal transaction.

To decipher Larry's unbridled rejoice, despite his seemingly downtrodden existence, one might examine the bit when Rodriguez says to him, "looks like you have a good time doing this, Larry." To which Larry responds, "I have a ball. Because I'm relating to humanity. Humanity is to be related to, and to be loved, and to be adored."

When asked to describe his work, if he was limited to one word, Rodriguez replied, "human." When that Being decided to apply pigments against a cave wall to depict familiar beasts of his surroundings, it was because he was human. When asked what keeps Larry going with an ear-to-ear grin, the answer is human. Inevitably, when watching a film by Felix Rodriguez, the leitmotif—from caverns and horses to skyscrapers and light rails—continues to be just that: human.

Good Movies are Taking a Break

By Chance Cerbone

The year 2011 ended with a slew of God-awful movies that decided to carry over into 2012. A few managed to be watchable without upchucking all that delicious Christmas dinner and the gallons of eggnog you thought would be a good idea to spike with Captain Morgan.

First off: "Alvin and The Chipmunks: Chipwrecked". The only three words that really sum up this movie are "Oh God, why?" The fact that the whole movie is completely intolerable for anyone that can figure out left from right coupled with the already stale references to 'pop culture' make for a nice 87-minute lobotomy.

Daniel M. Kimmel, of New England Movies Weekly sums up my thoughts by saying "There are a lot of wonderful family-friendly films out there this season. 'Alvin and The Chipmunks: Chipwrecked' is not one of them."

Continuing the mind-numbing pain of horrendous movies, (now in horror flavor) is "The

Devil Inside."

Words cannot express how excited I was for a new horror movie. I thought to myself 'Yes I quite enjoyed those first person camera movies, the Paranormal Activities. Hell I even liked the knockoff Paranormal Entity'.

So I went to the movies and sat down to something so easy to predict that anyone who can't figure it out has to be watching "Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked" one too many times. "Horror fans hoping to start 2012 with a bang are about to be in for a very rude awakening," states Dustin Putman of (Who-saw-this-coming?) Dustin-putman.com

A movie I saw that I was certain would put manly tears on my face the way 'Seven Pounds' did, was "Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close." Mainly due to the fact that it was a post 9/11 movie, and I thought to myself, 'Now's the time, Tom Hanks made 9/11 something we can talk about as a society'.

Wrong again. I should probably start betting against myself for what's going to be a good movie. "Thomas Horn plays that 9-year-old as a boy who's somewhere between precocious and autistic," said Scott Tobias of avclub.com



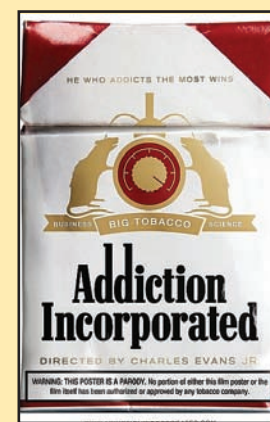
www.123rf.com

Now it's not all bad. "Addiction Incorporated" brings light to the silver screen by bringing out a documentary out of left field. "If you wonder why the increased war on

cigarettes—the pictures of black lungs, rotting teeth, emphysema (a painful and slow death)—credit Victor DeNoble," said Harvey Karten of NY Film Critics Online. Even though this movie didn't change my mind about cigarettes I still think this is something worth spending time in

the theatres to see.

Whether you spent your winter break squirming away from your family, enjoying too much eggnog, or actually having a good time, remember this one thing: the movies that came out over the break were some of the worst movies of the season. I say this because 'The Smurfs' came out last year, and these movies are on par with how horrendous they are.



www.movieweb.com

Addiction Incorporated



www.movieweb.com

The Devil Inside

LIFESTYLE

Social life vs. Schoolwork

By Hannah Botjer

Being a freshman in your first semester can be difficult for many students. College is a different world and some students seem to have trouble juggling schoolwork and social life. Whereas for others, it's a walk in the park and for them managing a college schedule is slightly easier. However, many students aren't used to a typical college schedule.

Juggling schoolwork and a social life can be very difficult. During the first semester students have to learn to say no to peer pressure, to resist temptations, and to learn to manage their time effectively to get their schoolwork done. It's when students learn that it's better to hit the books than to hit the parties. Here are a few suggestions:

First, study in the library not your dorm. "It helps drive you to

stay on top of things. Schedule one day of straight studying or catch up work and find hobbies, not just straight partying and have a day of just you so you don't burn out," said Brianna Gipe, 18, Math major from Shippenberg, PA. There are fewer interruptions in the library than in the dorm. It's quieter and your friends, or other students, aren't likely to disrupt you. In addition to that, the library also has more resources than can assist you in your studying. Teachers often give their textbooks to the libraries so students can access them more easily. The library's resources are beneficial for students who are struggling in their studies.

Another great idea is to join various clubs and organizations. A social life doesn't always mean sex, drugs and rock and roll. These organizations offer students a great opportunity to bond



www.123rf.com

with students and staffers that share the same interests. NJCU offers a wide variety of clubs, organizations, fraternities, and sororities. In addition, have many social events that students can get involved in. Many of these groups can also help with school studies.

You can also get outside help. "If you're really struggling to keep your focus on your academic commitments, you might want to talk to either your faculty advisor or a member of the college counseling staff," suggests College Confidential.

Sometimes bringing your homework or a past failed test to the tutoring and writing centers

could help you understand what you did wrong and make a world of difference in your class.

Lastly, try to take classes you know you'll be interested in, besides the ones for your major. By taking classes you know you will enjoy, it will make the class fun and easier. Also try to organize the class times around your life. If you are not a morning person it wouldn't be a good idea to schedule classes during the early morning. Try scheduling your classes in the afternoon or at night.

"Try to take classes you can enjoy but balance those out with the ones you may not really like," said Zayvier Maitin, 18, film

major from Union. You should also take classes at a specific time of the day (either morning or evening), so that you have the rest of the day to do as you please. Make sure to create a cycle and do your work/study around the same time each day... consistently," suggested Maitin.

All students want to make the most out of their college years and not spend money and time frivolously on something that's not going to work. It is possible to manage and balance an academic and social life. With the right amount of determination and using what is available to you, it is possible to have your grades thrive.

Careers in demand in 2012

By Allison Lozada

When students graduate college, they feel empowered and motivated to jump straight into their career. Unfortunately, these past recent years, landing the career graduates want hasn't been easy. Many companies have frozen their hiring rate leaving young adults with no jobs, no income, and thousands of dollars in school debt they cannot afford. However, the National Employment Report has informed the public that private employers have increased jobs since November 2011.

According to U.S. College Search, those who have a degree in computer science are already in the market. "Employers are looking for people who can work HTML5, program applica-

tions, and develop software," - who said geeks were losers? A computer software engineer can earn up to \$82,421.00 and employment is expected to increase from now to 2018.

Another field that appears promising is healthcare. Don't think you have to be a doctor to do this; home health aides, medical assistants, even nurses are in high demand right now. Think about it, there will always be illnesses, accidents, and elderly people in need. A health aid's average salary is about \$28,100 and according to MSN, "the number of Americans 65 and older is projected to be 88.5 million by 2050, more than double its estimated 2010 population." Medical assistants can earn up to \$37,500 and employment is expected to grow, but you will



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have to attend a two year program at a vocational school, according to MSN.com. If you are really looking for more money in the health field, you can expect that being a registered nurse will bring it in. This profession can earn up to \$71,700 and the numbers will be increasing considering employment will rise by 22.2 percent.

"Employment opportunities are expected to be good."

MSN

U.S. College search also mentions salespeople as another job to look for. With CNNMoney supporting this, it is hard to look away. "The retail trade has overall trended up since June 2011... employment opportunities are expected to be good," said MSN. Retail salesperson can earn around \$25,500 yearly and with the hopeful expectation in the market numbers can increase.

If you are looking for a job where you can put your multiple languages to use, try looking into customer service. Normally, it's a positive thing to know more than one language and, in this case, it is. MSN is hopeful that this occupation will be growing faster than the average growth. The average salary is about \$29,300. Becoming a

biomedical engineer can definitely benefit you financial, with a salary of over \$80,000.00 and one of the fastest-growing occupations it's no wonder the employment increases are sky rocketing by 72 percent. If you are interested in biology, you should look into this field.

Looking for jobs and careers can be stressful, and even disappointing, but by having an outline of what jobs are in demand, you can narrow the hunt down. Some employers are hopeful that more position will be available. According to BLS.gov (Bureau of Labor Statistics), the next Employment Situation for January 2012 will be released sometime early February. To look for possible positions in these fields, go to MSN.career-builder.com.

New Year Resolutions NOT to make IN 2012

By Allison Lozada

Every new year we always try to think of a resolution to better ourselves. We try to set a goal and feel determined once, January 1st comes around. However, by January 23rd, we forget the goal we set. Instead of being realistic with ourselves, we lean on the hope of losing weight, managing our money better, and finding our true love - which, in most cases, rarely happens. So, let's be honest with ourselves and not make the same resolutions this year.

1. Losing weight. It's the outdated promise everyone seems to wish they could keep. The common mistake with this is you can lose motivation quickly, if you are not focused. Most people set an unrealistic goal weight and once they see some progress, they ei-



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ther keep up with their diet or simply reward themselves, which snowballs right back to their poor eating habits. EsoSalon.com rec-

ommends those who want to watch their weight be more specific in their goal. "Aim for dropping a dress size, or 10 pounds, or 5% of your body fat," says Sara Ost writer for EsoSalon.com, "Consider [losing] three pounds."

2. Paying off your debts. NJCU students: How many of you have taken out loans for school? Constantly charge items to your credit card? Bought a car? Even bought a house? Chances of you paying off all of those things this year look pretty slim. According to the Project on Student Debt the average of students in debt in the United States is \$24,000 and this is "a modest figure" for most students. It's okay if you are in

debt; almost everyone is after the age of 25. But, make it a point to organize everything so your credit isn't ruined. Your credit is something you should worry about for your later years. Try managing your money more wisely. Instead of buying the newest game or the latest shoes, open up a savings account and throw the money in there.

3. Finding true love. STOP LOOKING FOR IT! People who stop looking usually find someone - whether it's love or not. If you force it, it will end up a catastrophe and end up at square one.

4. Making resolutions. Stop making resolutions altogether. Who says you must change the first of January? It's your life -- you can start a major change any time you want to, when it's appropriate in your life. People get

caught up in saying, "This is my year... this year will be different." If you expect change it may not come. Let the chips fall where they may and live it up. After all, according to the Mayans, we only have 12 months left!

If you have made any of these resolutions, don't fret: you can still change your mind. If you want to commit to them good luck to you but remember to stay focused and keep yourself motivated. If, by June, due to these you have seen changes in your life -- congratulations! You have gotten farther than most people and deserve some reward (whether it's a break from dieting or spending a little extra). If by December 31st 2012 you can say you kept your resolution then you deserve bragging rights.

OPINION/ADVICE

EDITORIAL

Class cuts: Was it worth the fuss?

Late last semester a few protesters scheduled a rally to spread awareness through the campus community about dramatic class cuts. Professors, students, and some staff joined together in this protest but it appears the assemble fell short. After speaking to willing students and encouraging them to assert their concerns it came to our surprise the class cuts did not affect many students.

Being students ourselves, we understand how important it is to

register for classes and how devastating it can be when they are suddenly dropped. Class cuts affect the whole campus but mainly targets the seniors as they prepare to graduate in May.

After speaking to a few seniors it may sound as though they did their college scheduling properly: difficult classes early, lighter classes towards the end. Some classes that were dropped seemed to be electives. These electives were classes taken solely for personal gain – not ac-

ademic reasons.

Of course, this is not to say important classes weren't dropped. We want to hear your story if your essential class was cut, especially, if you are a senior prepping to finish college. Underclassmen are always welcome to let us know if you were affected.

If these cuts alter your college plan, tell us your story at Gothictimes@gmail.com, or give us a call at 201-200-3575 and prove us wrong!

Improve yourself and your love life

By Ally Lozada

Have you ever caught your man's eyes wandering at other women and get the feeling that he's not interested in you anymore? Don't lose hope in your stale relationship; here are some tips to help you be the eye candy your man is craving.

Taking care of yourself doesn't always mean you are vain. Eating healthy will always benefit you, and constantly eating fast food will drive you down. Don't binge on salads either; a burger here or there won't kill you.

A lot of men enjoy seeing their leading ladies in sweats and no make up, but that doesn't mean you should live in them. Mix it up once in a while, or when you two have a date; slap on some mascara or some lip gloss. By looking stunning, you can make

sure he's looking at you and compliments are always a plus.

Smart is sexy. Be aware of what is going on around you. You don't have to know every politician's name, but it won't hurt to know some of the issues being discussed. Being book smart is great, but street smart indicates your wittiness and ability to be mindful of the world. Book smarts are another attribute; it shows that you want to get ahead in life.

Motivation is another attractive feature. If you went to college, use your degree without having someone to push you. If you constantly need someone to motivate you, it can be seen as co-dependency and no one likes that. Striving higher can even inspire other people around you to do the same. Confidence is sexy, so make sure to work it.

Be able to take jokes – and dish them out. Don't be so uptight, learn to take jokes, or else, your relationship will be kind of lame. Many girls make the mistake of getting offended way too easily and try to pick a fight over something trivial. Instead of getting offended, beat him at his own game, be quick on your feet, and throw a joke at him.

Being supportive of others, especially the apple of your eye, is

“Smart is sexy. Be aware of what is going on around you.”

always a positive thing. If they support whatever you do, then treat them the same, even if their ideas sound silly to you. You may think his dreams are silly, but to him, buying 50 pairs of shoes that you won't wear are silly (and a waste of money). Always have faith in those you love.

Leave your insecurities behind! Remember, confidence is sexy, no one wants the nagging girl on their back, and in the long run, you'll just be considered as “the crazy jealous girl.” Don't give other women the satisfaction of knowing they got under your skin. Play it cool, calm, and collective.

If you are stuck in a rut, or if you want to mix it up a bit, all these attributes are a sure to get some heads turning. Honestly, the best advice is to just be you, but taking some tips wouldn't hurt to try, if you are looking to improve your less than appealing habits.



Photo by Allison Lozada
Ally

Iraq War: What is it Good for? Absolutely Something!

By Monir Khilla

It's been called “The War of Our Generation,” but after more than eight years, the Iraq war has officially ended. Many of us can recall being shocked and awed watching the initial bombings of Baghdad that lit up the sky in a dazzling display of “fireworks,” or the late-night talk show parodies of a mus-



Photo courtesy of Monir Khilla
Monir Khilla deployed in Iraq.

tached Geraldo Rivera giving away troop positions.

However, for many veterans, myself included, the end of the Iraq war is – in all honesty – a huge sigh of relief. Student-veterans no longer have to worry about prolonging school for another year due to a deployment, or having to hear about the death of a beloved comrade. Families of military personnel no longer have to be burdened with another deployment or sleepless nights worrying about their loved ones.

The war in Iraq has already been talked about in many of our books and to a generation widely unfamiliar with war, we got our taste. It's one thing to read about past conflicts, such as WW2 and Vietnam, but

to be a part of history and watching the events unravel before our eyes, the engagement will imprint those images in our minds. The real question we should ask ourselves is this: what impact has the Iraq war had on us?

The tangible costs can be measured: money, number of lives, time, and so forth. But after growing up watching a war televised and unfold before our very eyes, we should stop and consider what the war has done to us. Our reputation has, as some pundits may argue, been tarnished. We're no longer looked upon as world leaders, but as an occupying force invading other countries for what we deem as our self-preservation. Our validity is now questioned and this causes a problem for us in the future as we look at other countries that

may pose a real threat. As soon as the military option comes on the table, we're automatically second-guessing our moves and wondering if this truly is the only way we can resolve differences with other countries.

Some of us have even begun to look at others differently. Friends and family of fallen soldiers can generally agree that not all Muslims are bad, but will at least look at them distinctly. Much like WW2 and Vietnam, the war in Iraq has socially classified Muslims and Arabs as “the other.” We even have an internment camp in Cuba to detain them. Call it discrimination, prejudice, or even racism, but just by watching the news, every night it feels as if this generalization seems to be the unacknowledged elephant in the room.

With all the troops out of Iraq

and back home, some of us may have already attended welcome back parties and gone drinking with our military buddies. The men and women in uniform will always serve as a reminder of what freedom costs; when we see them we no longer think of a paragraph in a book about Vietnam, WW2, or Korea, rather back to the images we saw growing up. We begin to realize what war is and comprehend the fact that it is not something that is just written about. Our generation, as future leaders, now understands the severity of going to war; the Iraq conflict will always be a reminder of the what consequences lie within our actions.

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Barry Larkin, Hall of Famer

Continued from page 8

named the Reds' captain before the 1997 season. The New York Mets attempted a blockbuster trade for Larkin in 2000, but he blocked it to remain with the Reds.

Larkin made the decision to retire in 2004. The Reds have not issued a player his number 11 since his retirement.

“I described myself as the ameba man, taking different forms and shapes, doing whatever it was I needed to do to help the team,” said Larkin of his play on the field. “I was asked to bring different faces of getting on base, get the runner over, drive the guy in and that was pretty prevalent my entire career.”

“He's told me to respect the game, to treat the game with respect, to respect every ground ball,” said Los Angeles Dodgers' short stop Dee Gordon.

Larkin worked as a baseball analyst on Baseball Tonight during the 2011 season. He received a great ovation from fans when he worked during a Reds game where fans were chanting “Barry Larkin!” and “Hall of Fame!”

Larkin will be inducted into the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown in July. He will be the 7th Red and 24th shortstop to be inducted.

“This is going to be an incredible experience and I certainly plan on enjoying the ride,” said Larkin.



Photo by Sean Rammarian
Monir Khilla

OPINION/ADVICE

Forget the media's Dr. King

By Rafal Rogoza

Dr. King has been lionized to the point that the man has become a myth. When reflecting on the lessons of Dr. King's life, the persona that is depicted annually by the media should be of the least significance. The lessons that we should draw from the life of this man is that perseverance against our vices is worth pursuing to achieve greater goals. Like each and every one of us, Dr. King experienced a tide of internal conflicts. A familiar struggle against our demons. It is this struggle within Dr. King that is of the



www.myhero.com
Martin Luther King, Jr.

most importance and deserves our attention because it is his greatest triumph.

Picture a young King growing up in a segregated racist neighborhood. Consider his internal battle to cope with a world he is just beginning to understand. See him in his shoes living as a second class citizen: degraded and threatened. Many can relate to living in poverty but can they come to terms with a society that legally protects abuse?

Punched, kicked, and spat on, at some point, King was confronted and had to make a choice to fight. In the heat of the moment he hesitates, composes

himself, and takes a right hook to his cheek. The disorienting blow stings the left side of his face. He's pissed, takes a grunt, holds it in and turns the other cheek. In pain and with his temperament firmly in his grip, Dr. King celebrates victory in an ongoing war against ignorance.

The better man just won.

Dr. King was an ordinary person who controlled his vices and took a stand for what's right. Anyone who shows as much heart as Dr. King can make a positive impact. Dr. King wasn't



Photo by Sean Rammarian
Rafal Rogoza

perfect, but his example showed us a path towards a better world. An example to pursue his path and follow his development as a human being. Disregard the media's hype that portrays Dr. King like a celebrity: its not worth your time. Instead, to better yourself and those around you, think about how a disadvantaged black boy from segregated Atlanta matured into a Nobel Peace Prize recipient and a symbol for peaceful coexistence.

NJCU Communications Survey

A brief, anonymous survey to learn how students communicate – and receive communications – with the university and fellow students.

PLEASE FILL OUT AND RETURN TO GSUB 301–*The Gothic Times* office
The survey is also available online at: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LS3D7FF>

1 . How frequently do you use the NJCU e-mail system?

- Frequently
- Occasionally
- Rarely
- Never

2 . How often do you use the NJCU Website?

- Several times each day
- Once daily
- Several times a week
- Weekly
- Less than once a week

3 . Does your major department ever contact you through e-mail?

- Yes
- No

4 . If you answered yes to Question 3, how frequently do you receive emails from your major department?

5 . Do you contact fellow NJCU students through Facebook?

- Yes
- No

6 . If you answered yes to Question 5, roughly how many students are you in contact with through Facebook, and how often do you have contact with them?

7 . How do you find out about events/social activities on campus?

Thank you for participating.

SPORTS

Synergy on the court continues

By Edgar Rivas, Jr.

The defending NJAC champions picked up where they left off from last season: winning. With an impressive 11-2 and an undefeated home record of 6-0, head coach Marc Brown's group is showing the NJAC world why they are the defending champions.

"[It's because of] the chemistry of the team. So far the chemistry has been great," said coach Brown.

Kaihrique Irick, 21, Criminal Justice, from Teaneck, NJ has been lighting up the scoreboard. Averaging 17.1 Pts/G, he scored a career-high 27 points in their 83-71 win over John Jay College.

Keith Williams, 21, Business Administration, from Jersey City, NJ was named Athlete of the Week for the 2nd time this season, the 5th time of his career.



Men's team in a huddle.

Photo by NJCU Sports Information

He's averaging 11.5 Pts/G with 4.2 Ast/G and 2.7 Stl/G.

The 6-0 record at home shows the importance of "protecting our house".

"[It's] pretty important, especially when you come into conference play. One of our goals as a team is to go undefeated at home," said coach Brown.

They are 1-0 at the JMAC in conference home games.

Being the defending NJAC champions means the target is on your back and every other team within that conference wants a piece of you.

"Everyone's going to give us their best effort. I tell my guys that's how it goes when you win, people come after you. We have to be prepared for that," said coach Brown.

Expect this team to still have the same winning attitude from the moment the season began.



Photo by NJCU Sports Information

Kaihrique Irick

"[We want to win] the championship [for the 2nd consecutive season]. [It's] my expectation every year. We play to win," said coach Brown. "[But we have to] improve defensively. We've taken a step back after the break. That's what we're working on practice."

'We're taking positive steps in the right direction'

By Edgar Rivas, Jr.

When head coach Amy Mulligan was hired on May of 2011, she was brought in to rebuild the women's basketball program and bring the team into their winning ways. Though a 3-9 record doesn't show much, coach Mulligan sees the improvement.

"We're taking positive steps in the right direction," said coach Mulligan. "But we need to slow ourselves down, understand where we need to be, how to work the basketball, and play more cohesively as a unit, especially on the defensive end."

Despite being 6 games under the .500 mark, a few players have stood out for this season. Alnisa Hernaiz, 19, Criminal Justice, from Irvington, NJ is their leading scorer with 9.6 Pts/G and is also averaging 7.9 Reb/G. She was named Athlete of the Week for the 3rd time in her career.

"[She] is starting to really step into where she needs to be as a post player for us," said Coach Mulligan.

Delia Chenez, 20, Professional Security Studies, from Union City, NJ has been a rebounding machine, averaging 7.3 Reb/G, 2nd behind Hernaiz.



NJCU Women's Basketball

Photo by NJCU Sports Information

"[She] has done a great job. Defensively, she's been one of our best players. She's starting to step up offensively, which has really been a turnaround for us and a big help," said coach Mulligan.

Luisa Montalvo, 18, Criminal Justice, from Bayonne, NJ is in her first season with the team. She's second behind Hernaiz in scoring, averaging 9.5 Pts/G.

"[She] has stepped up as a freshman and really taking on an important role for us and starting to bring this team on another level," said coach Mulligan.

According to Mulligan, with the rest of the schedule being

dominated by conference games, the formula to prepare for this stretch is about, "What we do how we execute offensively and also our defensive strategies. When you play a conference as tough as the NJAC you just [have] to come out blazing, ready to go, and just be tough."

With the final stretch of the season looming near and a 3-9 record, the NJAC Tournament is likely out of the picture. But don't expect this team to slow down or give up easily.

"[I expect them to] play hard, work hard, and continue to grow," said coach Mulligan."

Cooperstown inducts Barry Larkin

By Kelsey O'Donnell

Longtime Cincinnati Reds shortstop Barry Larkin was inducted into the American Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown on January 9, 2012.

Larkin notched 86.4 percent of the votes by the Baseball Writers Association of America (BBWAA). There are 573 ballots all together. It was Larkin's third year of eligibility.

Edgar Martinez collected 36.5 percent of the voting.

"I think me being here is a culmination of a lot of things," said

Larkin in a press conference to announce his election. "The product of the incredible support that I've had my entire life starting with my parents at home, of course my wife and kids, my friends and families, people within the organization, Reds fans, I can't wait to see in July how much red is going to be in Cooperstown."

Larkin was brought up to the big leagues as a rookie in 1986 and by 1988 he was a star player. In that season he led all of Major League Baseball in strikeouts by being sent back to the dugout only 24 in 588 at

bats.

His most notable year was in 1990 when he carried the Reds to a World Series victory by batting .358 and sweeping the Oakland Athletics in four games.

On June 26-27, 1991 Larkin became the first shortstop in MLB history to hit five home runs in two consecutive games.

In 1995 Larkin was honored with the Most Valuable Player award for the National League. That year he batted .319 and was second in stolen bases (51).

Larkin hit his career high in home runs (33) in 1996 and was

Continued on page 6

Thrice is nice!

By Edgar Rivas, Jr.

The Gothic Knight Academic Award has been awarded since 1999. To be eligible for this award, a student/athlete must meet these requirements: A minimum of 36 cumulative college-level credits earned at NJCU that will be used toward their degree, the person must have participated and completed their season in the academic year that the award is being granted, and it's not based on athletic ability – only academic performance.

Prior to 2011, only one female student/athlete had received the award three times: Patty J. Bradley, a softball player who won in 1999, 2000, 2001. This year, Alex Johanesen, 21, English/Journalism major from Bridgewater, won the award for the third consecutive year.

Johanesen had a very successful volleyball career. The all-time NJCU Women's volleyball leader in assists, she was a two-time captain for the Gothic Knights (2009, 2010). In 368 career sets and 110 career matches, she was the most accurate server in NJCU Women's volleyball history with a .975 serve percentage. She ranks third in the program's history in assists per set (7.47) and service attempts, seventh in aces, 10th in sets played, 12th in block assists, 13th in matches played, and 15th in service aces per set (0.54).

Now a three-time recipient, she didn't expect to receive the award.

"I was surprised because I didn't know that I was going to get it this year," said Johanesen.

Despite not expecting to receive the award, she was proud of the achievement.

"It just shows that you can be a successful athlete and a successful student," she said.

At times, the dual role of "student/athlete" isn't fully realized. There are cases of a student/athlete being a successful athlete but not a successful student, or vice-versa.

"Student/athletes don't necessarily

take the time to push themselves for both," remarked Johanesen. "I'm proud because I know it's important to be both a student and an athlete."

Johanesen has her formula of being a successful student athlete: "I know my limitations, what I can do, know how/when to study, know when I need to be getting things done. I don't procrastinate, and I have my priorities set."

The Fall 2011 semester was Johanesen's last as sports writer for *The Gothic Times*.

"It was fun. There were a lot of different characters. It was nice to learn from different kinds of people," she said.

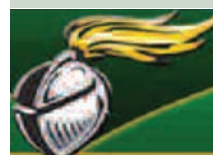
She graduated in December and hopes to get into graduate school and, eventually, become a novelist. As for the many transitions from high school graduate to college student, volleyball player to student/athlete to college graduate, she feels a little overwhelmed.

"You're expected to jump into the real world," she said.



Photo by NJCU Sports Information

Alex Johanesen



For more information about NJCU sports, games and events, visit...

www.NJCUGothicKnights.com