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President steps down after 40 yrs. of service

By Rafal Rogoza

After 40 years of dedicated service to New Jersey City University President, Dr. Carlos Hernandez will be stepping down as the university's leader on July 1.

Hired in 1973 as a professor in environmental psychology, Hernandez moved up the chain of command becoming a Provost, Vice President for Academic Affairs, executive assistant to the President, and eventually he was appointed President of NJCU in 1993.

Born and raised by a Puerto Rican working class family in Spanish Harlem, Hernandez was the first of his family to earn a college education. He earned his Ph.D. in environmental psychology at York College.

Grateful for his opportunity to lead for nearly 20 years and thankful to staff, faculty, and students that have challenged, questioned, and supported him, Pres. Hernandez looks forward to his retirement.

The Gothic Times interviewed President Hernandez about his experience at NJCU and future plans.

Gothic Times: How did you stumble into NJCU?

Carlos Hernandez: "Stumble into" is an interesting word because it was almost an accident. I just started my graduate work in a field called environmental psychology. Which was what my PhD. is in. A faculty member at then Jersey City State [College], an African - American faculty member, was leaving. He was teaching here. He was leaving and recommended me for a position here because he was teaching environmental psy. And I was interviewed and finally accepted the position. So, had this gentleman not left and introduced me to the psychology department here I would probably not be here I would be somewhere else. So, it was purely an accident.

G.T: How was your experience here as a professor?

C.H: It was a great. I received tenure, taught for seven years. Obviously, it was a different time. I thoroughly enjoyed teaching environmental psychology. It was a discipline that I still love very much, certainly enjoyed the students. And because it was a relatively new field in psychol-



Photo by njcu.edu

President Carlos Hernandez is retiring on July 1, 2012.

ogy I was sort of at the beginning of how that discipline was emerging at the time.

G.T: What was your first day like as President?

C.H: My first day here was kind of interesting because my

furniture was Bill Maxwell's [President Hernandez's predecessor] furniture. I'll tell you a funny story, he was taller than I am so the moment I sat in the chair my feet didn't touch the floor and I said what am I doing

in this office. I mean I'm not a tall guy I'm 5'7, but he liked his chair up and I sat down and my feet didn't touch the floor. And I realized at that moment that I now have the possibility of doing

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Letter from the Editor: Allison Lozada

My time as Editor-in-Chief was both extremely stressful and exceedingly rewarding. Despite having to answer angry calls from various departments, students, and professors and meeting tight deadlines, the perks of being editor-in-chief were great.

To witness freshman and first time writers accomplish their stepping stone into the world of journalism was great compensation. I remember how I felt when I first witnessed my name published in the Gothic Times and hope they shared that mutual sense of accomplishment. Before this begins to sound like a final episode of the Care Bears, I will have to admit the headaches this position has caused me to ask myself, "What the hell was I thinking?" Whether it was meeting deadlines or the layouts being completely distorted or the constant late submissions ten minutes before we go to print, it would drive any sane person to the brink of insanity.

The paper could not have been done by one person. I have to bestow great gratitude upon my entire editorial staff without whom I would have lost my mind. I could never thank my staff enough for all their hard work and late nights devoted to editing and proofing layouts. I can only hope they feel my deep appreciation I hold for them all.

Being a part of the Gothic Times family is an experience I will hold dear and enjoy the wonderful memories that were made. I will miss Rafal's romantic music he played every morning and the need to blame Monir for any broken item in the office. I will also miss the chaos



Gothic Times staff

Photo by Sean Rammarian

that accompanied the pizza orders during meeting in which I would find only one slice left for myself.

I am proud of the paper we have printed for this past school year and would like to thank the entire campus community for

their willingness to share every story they felt was relevant to the university. I wish luck and triumph to my successor and his staff for the following school year.

Sincerely,
Allison Lozada, Editor in Chief

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NEWS

President steps down

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hopefully great things for our students and for the institution. I also felt, as I did when I first became an administrator, I really wondered if I could be successful as President. I always felt that one shouldn't feel comfortable being President of an institution. That if you felt comfortable, almost like you deserved to be the President, that you would begin to make mistakes. So from the very first day I said I'm always going to see this as a challenge, I'm not going to take anything for granted, and that I would see this as a learning experience for me while I'm doing the best that I could for the institution.

G.T: What was the greatest challenge you confronted as President?

C.H: Well you know, certainly the biggest challenge, one that I

face even today and I'll face the last day that I'm here is clearly that of dealing with a budget that are just impossible. That will continue to be a nagging reality I think for my successor unless things change dramatically. Also, this institution is very different than other the state colleges and universities in New Jersey. And being able to project the mission of access and excellence of letting others know that our students may not have the highest SAT scores but they're worthy of a quality undergraduate education. Breaking those barriers has always been a challenge. I've always said don't judge our students by their SAT scores, come to our commencement and look to see what they have accomplished with the years they have been here. So the challenge has been breaking those stereotypic perceptions that



Courtesy of Lillian Hernandez
Hernandez' graduation photo

others have of this type of institution.

G.T: What was your proudest moment as President?

C.H: Clearly obtaining university status in 1998. We have worked long and hard to accomplish that. And it was a goal that I had the moment I knew it was going to be a possibility back in 1994. And when it was announced through a very competitive, through a very strict process that we in fact met all the criteria for university status, that to me was, other than being inaugurated President, will forever remain I think the proudest moment. Not just for me but for the institution.



Courtesy of Office of Public Information and Community Relations

Hernandez greeting students at a reception he hosted for visiting students from HR College in Mumbai, India.

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G.T: After 40 years, how does it feel to know you'll be leaving in a month?

C.H: It's an odd feeling. I knew from the very beginning that obviously one doesn't remain President forever. So I knew there would come a day when I would decide that it's time. As it gets closer and closer I have to admit, not surprisingly, I have very mixed emotions about it. I have spent most of my life here. I have spent all of my professional life here and half of that professional life was President. So, I leave behind a lot of good feelings. I leave behind a lot of people who I have come to learn and love because of their commitment to the institution. I will sorely miss students and what they bring to the institution and how they change the institution over time. But I'm also looking forward to relaxing, to not having the stress of the job. I look forward to taking on new challenges and other possibilities. You don't walk away after 40 years and say 'that's it', you leave part of yourself at the institution.

G.T: Why did you decide that this is the time for you to step down?

C.H: I really thought that I have given it all that I could, that it [the university] needed new leadership. Perhaps someone who could take the vision and mission forward in a way that I couldn't with new ideas that I just don't have. And I always told myself when I started thinking more about myself, and this is a very difficult thing to say, but I said when the institution stops becoming my first priority and my

first priority was becoming who I am within the institution and my own needs, I knew that was probably the right time to... to sort of say it's time for me to leave. Quite honestly I was tired of the stress and the complexities of it, and I thought it was a good time for new leadership.

G.T: Any advice for the new leadership?

C.H: Yeah, if I have an opportunity to speak to whoever my successor is, I would advise that person to put the mission first. Certainly the special mission here, to live it, to breath it, to believe in it, to put it first among everything else. To understand your going to make mistakes. And that its better to make a decision, whether it is right or wrong sometimes, than to not make a decision because people expect action from you. I would advise a person to have as much fun that he or she could within a job and I would advise them to take care of their health both physically and emotionally.

G.T: Do you have any advice for the student body?

C.H: Yeah absolutely... keep on



Courtesy of Lillian Hernandez

President Hernandez with his wife, Lillian Hernandez.

challenging yourselves, challenge the institution...I would always tell the incoming freshman class, think of yourself as an intellectual because that's what this environment is suppose to be about. When I was an undergraduate we came in to study as intellectuals. It wasn't about jobs, it wasn't about careers. We were there really to explore the world of the mind and.. a university experience is supposed to be an intellectual experience where you stretch your mind as much as you can stretch it. I don't think students think of themselves as intellectuals but that's what this is suppose to be about. So I would advise students to balance their real needs with the opportunity to really live the life of the mind.

Editor's note: President Hernandez's responses were edited for space.

Nina Alvarez spreads awareness on child sex trafficking

By Roberto Miranda

Looking across the river, you wouldn't think that New York City is a haven for child sex trafficking, but Nina Alvarez's work proves otherwise. On April 16, 2012, Oscar nominated and Emmy Award winning television journalist, producer, and filmmaker Nina Alvarez took the time to speak to the New Jersey City University campus here at Hepburn Hall (room 202) about her involvement against sex trafficking, while displaying clips from her documentary "Very Young Girls," a documentary that exposes the unjustness of underage sex trafficking of African American girls all over New York City that results in the girls being treated as criminals by the police.

"Most of these girls came from vulnerable situations," Says Alvarez, "Pimps look for the most vulnerable people. If you're 15 or 16, and some 30 year old guy tells you, 'You are super cute, would you like to go to lunch?', it's flattering. I was 16, [and] I probably didn't have the same risk, but it could've been anybody."

Alvarez's documentary was a success thanks to her involvement with the Girls Education & Mentoring Services, also known as GEMS. According to the official GEMS website, "GEMS is committed to ending commercial sexual exploitation and domestic trafficking of children by changing individual lives, transforming public perception, and revolutionizing the systems and policies that impact commercially sexually exploited youth." During her lecture, Alvarez mentioned how GEMS serves about



Courtesy of Office of Public Information and Community Relations

Nina Alvarez speaking at NJCU.

200 girls in the style of rehabilitation, as well as her experience with GEMS' clients during the making of her film.

"These girls didn't trust me, or [know] if I was out to make them look bad, but then I became their friend," says Alvarez, who also discussed the laws regarding sex trafficking and age. She explained how an underage sex trafficker would be forced into rehabilitation and be treated as a criminal by authorities while receiving little to no moral support by the court system that penalized them.

Feeling that the awareness of sex trafficking isn't where it should be, Alvarez was quick to describe the relationships between the victims and those that controlled them. She claims that most underage sex trafficking cases go unidentified since the victim's relationship with their pimp revolves around either love or fear; stating that the girls "fear the safety of their lives" if they

were to contact authorities.

Alvarez hopes to reduce the amount of sex trafficking by raising awareness through her lectures and through the exposure of her film thanks to GEMS. When asked what her biggest personal goal towards raising sex trafficking awareness was, Alvarez stated the following: "I'm not optimistic that prostitution is going to end, but if we can refrain how it works and recognize that youth are being exploited; [as we] provide the aid and services of support to the victims; if we can get there, that would be optimal."

Alvarez was part of the campaign that helped change sex trafficking laws in New York State, but feels that her work is still in progress. "We are starting to see some change, which is [good], but we've still got a long way to go."

For more information on Nina Alvarez and GEMS please visit: <http://www.gems-girls.org/>



NJCU!
Join our
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Team Number: 3315

Please email Shana Rodriguez at shanardrgz@yahoo.com
LINK: <http://go.gl/WORxd>

NEWS

Art student's rejected piece finally given a voice

By Jennifer Vazquez

Daniel Ruiz, 24, Painting/Drawing major from Bayonne, was once again faced with the infamous controversy over the removal of his painting, *Mommy I Hate Them Too*, at the "Diversity In Art Forum" held Tuesday, April 10, in GSUB 125 from 4pm-6pm.

The painting depicts a little girl holding a sign that reads "The Juice killed Jesus," with a cross surrounded by fruits. It was removed from display in December provoking art students to claim the painting was censored.

Just as one would expect, the place was packed. Students and faculty came in impressive numbers to hear a varied panel selection.

The panelists were Art Professor Raymond Statlander, Theology Adjunct Professor Alfonse Borysewicz, Art Adjunct Professor Gerardo Castro, Cantor Marsha Dubrow, Ph.D. and Cantor at the Congregation B'nai Jacob, Art Professor Emeritus Ben Jones, Philosophy Adjunct Professor Jonathan Pickle, and VP and Associate Executive Director of the American Conference on Diversity Linda Tondow.

Introductory remarks were by President Carlos Hernandez and Art Department Chair Herb Rosenberg, and Assistant Dean Amani Jennings was moderator.

The forum started with opening remarks from Ruiz who discussed how his purpose for the painting was to explore color.

Castro, who taught the class where Ruiz's piece was made, discussed how the painting was removed.

"I was never aware of the situation, and I think that after 14 years I could have gotten a call [about the painting being removed]," said Castro.

Statlander, who took down the painting, was more concerned with the intent of the piece itself. He said, "The topic I want to talk about is the meaning of the words. That's not a painting, that's language."

While recalling his initial response to the painting, Statlander said, "the total feeling was sickening. I became annoyed and angry that this class put up with this sneaky propaganda."

Pickle felt that the main issue was the removal of the piece; he did not appreciate nor find the work offensive.

"I merely want to assert that it is offensive and incorrect to my capacity as a thinking, rational, and reflective creature that I was not allowed to determine this for myself," said Pickle.

Borysewicz and Tondow were more concerned with the artist's intent while Jones urged the importance of communication and spoke against the painting's removal.

"You ever go see a film and you say 'this is horrible?' But, you didn't say that film didn't have the right to exist," said Jones.

Artist Duda Penteado paid special attention to Daniel in his remarks, warning him to be ready to defend his controversial art in the future.

After almost two hours of the panelists' opening remarks, the floor was open for questions. Kory Martinez, 25, Painting/Drawing major from Newark, directed her comments to the art department, said no one ever offered a solution. "So, just by taking it down, what did you expect from [Ruiz] and all art students?" Martinez didn't receive a set answer.

Rafal Rogoza, 25, Political Science major from Jersey City, made an impact with the audience and panelists alike with his honest confession of growing up in an anti-Semitic environment.



Professor Gerardo Castro addressing the audience and panelists.

Photo by GT staff

He expressed that seeing the painting would have challenged him and allowed for necessary conversation.

"I know the way I was brought up and the way people made me feel towards you is wrong [referring to Statlander], but I don't know how to deal with it. How do you help people like me?" said Rogoza.

Statlander's "...through meditation..." response left much to be desired, according to Rogoza.

"I think what I said was very strong so I'm sure he wasn't ready to respond to what I said and maybe, he even missed my point. But I think he definitely didn't answer my question," said Rogoza.

Even so, Rogoza still felt that his honesty was positive for Statlander and other Jewish people at the forum by giving them a different perspective. "If we don't talk about things so sensitive, we really are wasting our time," said Rogoza.

Though many students felt the panelists' responses to Rogoza's question lacked luster, a majority of the students and faculty were just glad the forum didn't turn into a blood bath.

"I was surprised that nobody was yelling at anybody, so it was nice that it was respectful," said



Photo by GT staff

The Student Government Organization social space was full for the art forum.

Kristy Lopez, 21, Art History major from Union.

Others thought the forum was less successful.

"I don't know, it was a good attempt but I don't think anything was resolved and it was an overall failure," said Filipe Barros, 30, Graphic Design major from North Arlington.

The organizer of the event, MFA student and Fitness Center Coordinator Sergio Villamizar said, "I think it was successful, we were able to give this important topic the recognition it deserved. Daniel and the people who attended the panel were able to listen to different points of view and become a little more sensitive to other cultures and

other religions. Diversity is a difficult and often controversial topic, but one we should not shy away from."

VP of Student Affairs John Melendez, who also helped form this program, was impressed and felt he got something valuable out of it. "I ended up being challenged in my assumption that it [the painting] was bad. It wasn't bad. I don't agree with it, but I now understand why Professor Statlander thought he should take it down," said Melendez.

If the forum did anything, it made people aware that, as Melendez said, "There will be a lot more second guessing before anyone just takes [artwork] down."

One student's tale of the Claremont Ave. fire

By Monir Khilla

When Corey Brumfield, 20, Media Arts major and Theater minor, from Jersey City, woke up at 4 a.m. on Easter morning, there was a slight smell of smoke in the air. He figured someone was probably cooking and he continued about his business. However, 15 minutes later, the smell had gotten stronger and it now felt like something was burning.

Brumfield got up and opened the door. He noticed a dark and smokey hallway.

"No one was up and you could tell the difference," said Brumfield.

Brumfield didn't know it was a fire until two boys in the building told him that the heater in the basement had caught on fire. Brumfield's parents had called the fire department, who took approximately 10 minutes to arrive.

As his parents, his younger siblings, and Brumfield were stand-

ing outside on a cold Easter morning, the fire had only spread to two houses. By the time the fire department put out the flames, a total of ten homes and dozens of lives were ruined. Brumfield had lost his home of about four years.

According to Brumfield, "The wood was so old, so the buildings burned quicker. The fire burned for over three hours. There were maybe two or three houses at first, but in the end it was ten."

The next few days were tumultuous for Brumfield and his family.

"The Red Cross gave us flyers for the Howard Johnson for a night. We spent the week with our cousins and aunts at Coney Island," said Brumfield.

Brumfield came back to Jersey City and he and his family are currently staying at a residence owned by a friend. The residence is under renovations.

The New Jersey City University campus community reacted to the fire in one of the ways they knew they could help: A clothing drive was set up to help the victims of the fire. The fire was on Claremont Avenue, just a few blocks away from the university.

"I did notice the clothes drive on the first floor," said Brumfield. "We've gone through a lot of clothes. We keep the ones that fit and donate the others to the church that's helping out the families."

Even though Brumfield lost his laptops, clothes, and devices, he



Photo courtesy of Corey Brumfield
Corey Brumfield



Google images

The Claremont Avenue fire on April 8 displaced 75.

is most worried about his education.

"I've been more worried about replacing the stuff I had for classes, like books and supplies," said Brumfield.

The outpouring of support didn't surprise Brumfield. "Now that I think about it, since the fire was two blocks away, I'm not really surprised [by the support]."

Brumfield jokes that the biggest difference now, than before the fire, is the amount of time he spends on campus. He spends a good majority of the

day in the library or at the computer lab trying to catch up on homework.

Brumfield did have this message to the entire NJCU community: "I would like to say thank you. Not just for me, but because you took time out of your busy schedule to help the families of the fire."

In looking to the future, Brumfield remains optimistic and sees the fire as a good thing.

"I think fire is a purifying element, it burns away the old and makes way for the new."

NEWS

Fulbright award leads student overseas

By Allison Lozada

Jennie David, 21, English and secondary education major from Jersey City, has recently been bestowed the U.S. Student Fulbright award for 2012-2013. Receiving this award will allow her to travel to South Korea to teach children at no cost to her.

"The award provides travel, training in Korean language/culture and teaching techniques, as well as a home stay while in the country," said David, "I will be teaching... as an English teacher in a secondary education setting in South Korea for one year."

When asked if applying for the award was a struggle, David answered, "Not precisely. The hardest part was writing the essays, as they took a lot of time and had strict requirements."

The Fulbright award was estab-



Photo courtesy of Jennie David
Jennie David, Fulbright award recipient

lished in 1946 by the U.S. Congress. The award is the largest international exchange program in the country, extremely competi-

tive, and known in 155 countries. The research grant and English Teaching Assistantship grant are the two awards at NJCU that students can apply to. There is also

Aside from teaching and learning about the Korean culture and language, I plan to travel a lot while I am there...

no need for a certification in Education to apply for the ETA grant.

A project needed to be proposed before her trip and she de-

cidated to shed light on a topic that needs awareness. "I came up with the idea about teaching against cyberbullying, as it is a prominent issue among young people in South Korea," explained David.

According to Irma Maini, Fulbright Academic Advisor for NJCU, students who can apply are: "any student who is a U.S. citizen; will have a BA at the start of the grant; and has leadership qualities and academic merit."

David demonstrated her excitement for her trip to South Korea. "My friends and I were actually dreaming ... of going to Korea and now I get to go for a year." This doesn't mean she is ready to leave everything and everyone behind. "I'm going to miss my family and friends. My family is close and I've really never left them to go away by myself for

longer than two weeks."

Despite leaving her family, David is still moving forward with her education and hopes to accomplish much more. "Aside from teaching and learning about the Korean culture and language, I plan to travel a lot while I am there... When I return home, I plan to find a teaching job and apply... teaching techniques I've learned over there."

If you are interested in applying for this grant, applications are due mid-October 2012. To apply for the Fulbright award, you must contact Irma Maini at imaini@njcu.edu.

Although, the applications are due mid-October, you must be willing to work on your application through summer. There will also be a workshop held for the Fulbright Grants on Monday April 30th in GSUB Room 129 from 1:00pm-2:00pm.

Graduate, come on down!

By Mariham Hanna

On May, 16 2012, New Jersey City University (NJCU) graduates will celebrate their accomplishments at the IZOD Center in East Rutherford.

According to Monica Almonor, associate registrar from the Office of Registration Services, 1,343 students will be graduating this year.

"It's bitter sweet, I'm so used to my life at NJCU. It's like a second home," said Senior Class President Jane Sepulveda, 22, Geo - Science major from Jersey City.

As Senior Class President, Sepulveda will have the privilege of addressing her peers by delivering the graduation speech.

"Yeah, I'm nervous," said Sepulveda, "It's a big responsibility because Dr. Hernandez is retiring."

This year's honorary degree re-

ipient will be Emanuel Araújo, a Brazilian artist and the Head Curator and Director of the Museu AfroBrasil in Sao Paolo. In attendance will also be the Consul-General of Brazil in New York, the Honorable Luiz Felipe de Seixas Corrêa.

Graduates are enthusiastic about finally receiving their degree.

"I feel so accomplished and excited to finally have the chance to walk down that stage and receive my degree," said Nahed Mansour, 35, Education and Special Aid, from Bayonne.

Some of the graduates have already planned or considered attending graduate school.

"I am currently preparing for my graduate school program," said Elizabeth Hemingway, 63, Business Administration, from Jersey City. "I have met with my professors and they are currently in the process of writing my letters of recommendations. So far things are falling into their

proper place. I am looking forward to graduation."

"Well I have started considering graduate school but have not yet taken action. However, I am getting married in July of this year," said Madline Eskander 22, Early Childhood Education, from Bayonne.

Others have not yet decided whether to attend graduate school or not.

"As for my life after graduation, I have not yet decided if I will attend graduate school, however I have started my hunt for the jobs and I can't wait to start working with my degree," said Mansour.

Before students can graduate, the following requirements must be met:

1 Seniors must review and confirm with their advisor on their status in fulfilling all the required courses. Many seniors face the dilemma of discovering an incomplete amount of credits or unfulfilled

requirements at the end of the year. Make sure that you schedule an appointment and meet with your advisor, confirming that your courses have met clearance.

2 If you have taken any loans, make sure that you acquire the information of your loaners in order for you to continue to pay off your loan, after graduation. Failing to make any payments after graduation can result in a decrease in your credit score as well as other financial complications.

3 Review and reconstruct your resume. Your resume is an important element in your constructed portrait which will be important to the employers in job markets. It should represent who you are as well as what you have accomplished in the past. It should also



Photo courtesy of njcu.edu

demonstrate what you are capable of doing.

4 Those who are considering graduate school, take heed and begin searching for graduate programs that will fulfill your major and personal requirements.

5 Pay a visit to your coordinating professors so that they can begin writing your letters of recommendations. These recommending letters are a very important ingredient in all of your upcoming events and new stages in life. Make sure that you acquire your recommendation letters as soon as possible. Congratulations, Class of 2012!

NEW JERSEY CITY UNIVERSITY SENIOR CLASS 2012 PRESENTS



SENIORS! Come spend a day at Six Flags Great Adventure with your friends before your senior year ends.

Sat, April 28th – 10:30am till 8:00pm

Tickets can be purchased at the service desk in GSUB 125.
Tickets for 2012 Seniors are \$10 each.

NOTE: Six Flags is located off I-195 in Jackson, NJ.
You must provide your own transportation. Car-pooling encouraged.

Law School?

The Hudson County Bar Foundation will award scholarships to students who are attending law school or who have been accepted to law school for the September 2012 – May 2013 term.

The Hudson County Bar Foundation Scholarship Fund is one of the oldest providers of financial assistance to Hudson County law students. Esteemed members and families of the Hudson County legal community have funded these 44 scholarships.

In addition to our prestigious list of endowments, the HCBF is pleased and honored to announce two recently funded scholarships. **The Hon. Shirley A. Tolentino Scholarship** and the **Justice Marie L. Garibaldi Scholarship**.

Students must be bona fide residents of Hudson County; must demonstrate financial need; must provide two (2) current Letters of Recommendation and must account for appropriate academic standards.

Interested applicants can write to the Hudson County Bar Foundation Scholarship Committee, 583 Newark Avenue, Jersey City, New Jersey 07306 or call (201) 798-4708 or send an e-mail to events@hcbalaw.com to request an application. The application is also available on our web-site at www.hcbalaw.com **All applications must be received on or before April 30, 2012.**

PRESS RELEASE— FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEWS

Low graduate enrollment prompts new recruiting efforts

By Monir Khilla

New Jersey City University (NJCU) has seen a decline in graduate enrollment since 2006, affecting the university's overall enrollment and budget. With competition from Saint Peter's College – soon to be Saint Peter's University – NJCU is aggressively pursuing many venues to increase its graduate enrollment.

The trend isn't unique to just NJCU. Other state sister-schools, such as Kean and William Paterson, have also seen a decline in graduate students.

In the Fall of 2007, NJCU had a total of 2,148 graduate students. By fall 2011 that number dropped to 1,690. The total enrollment for undergraduates and graduates has declined by 3.5 percent.

While the teacher's union has been bracing for the armageddon of education, the university has calmly pointed at the numbers and revamped their recruiting.

Joanne Bruno, Vice President of Academic Affairs, pointed out that, "Although we are growing in our graduate programs in business and security, we're not [growing] in education, they have taken a dip."

It is this fact that seems to indicate where the problem in graduate enrollment is. NJCU has seen an increase in graduate students in the College of Professional Studies. The College of Education has been stagnant in graduate enrollment, directly affecting the College of Arts and Sciences. Many graduate students in education also specialize in other departments such as math, English, and Psychology.

While the College of Professional Studies has been thriving – in Spring 2011 the college exceeded their headcount goal by 130 percent - the College of Education and the College of Arts and Sciences both saw a 13 percent average shortfall in their goals.

Furthermore, the -3.5 percent decline is a misrepresentation. NJCU has actually increased their undergraduate students from 6,172 in Fall 2006 to 6,656 in Fall 2011. The -3.5 percent decline is solely due to the graduate short-fall – specifically in the College of Education.

NJCU also offers a teacher cer-



Courtesy of Office of Academic Affairs

Joanne Bruno,
VP of Academic Affairs

tificate program for anyone with a Bachelor's degree called New Pathways to Teaching in New Jersey (NPTNJ). Started in 2003, the program would give students a Certificate of Eligibility (CE) in education in 15 credits instead of having to go through the trouble of getting a Master's. The credits would also count towards a Master's degree, if the student does pursue it. However, the program has also seen a heavy decline in students.

So what is the University doing in order to remedy the situation?

"What the university hasn't done is put significant money into marketing NJCU. We should be marketing our [graduate] programs," said Bruno.

The University Advancement department is shifting to the web to save costs in print and billboard expenses.

Dr. William Bajor, Acting Di-

rector of Graduate Studies and Continuing Education, also said that, "Growing our education department will help grow our other departments in bunches and groups."

The College of Education overwhelmingly has more students than the other colleges.

The university also wants to work with departments at a greater level when it comes to recruiting.

"What we want to do is use the Graduate Office to support those efforts, to give them brochures to work with [University] Advancement, and give them the tools [they need]," said Bruno.

"We're also going to other colleges that are not on our usual circuit, for example, we were recently at Bloomfield College and Caldwell College, those were ones that weren't on our circuit," said Bajor.

The College of Education will also be starting a Ed.D. (Doctor of Education) program in Summer 2013 in order to help recruit more graduate students.

Despite the drop in graduate students in the College of Education, Bruno said that, "The degree is a niche market because the degree is a leadership program in educational technology for the private sector, as well as, teachers."

NJCU decided to also give out waivers for standardized graduate tests such as the GRE (Graduate Record Exam) and GMAT (Graduate Management Admissions Test). The waiver program is specifically for Master's and certificates, not for doctorates or the Diploma program in Psychology. By receiving a waiver, graduate students wouldn't take the graduate level standardized tests, but would have to provide a transcript that meets the standard of the department they are trying to get into.

Since the waiver program began in November of 2011, "Many students in the pipeline who were in

the process were able to continue their graduate degrees. When we did this, we saw so many people matriculated into the program," said Bruno.

The program has been helpful towards older students who are continuing education and who have been successful, but didn't want to take a GRE at their age.

"Enrollment in the spring was greater than the fall and that's something positive, because historically fall enrollments are typically bigger. We saw a greater increase in that window and in the end, we did receive more applications. Those taking advantage of this small window were also current/active students," said Bajor.

Despite the hard work by administrators and departments, the university will also need help from its students.

"You are our best ambassadors.

the campus, and the faculty."

NJCU also boasts a Maya Lin sculpture. The artist, who also created the Vietnam memorial in Washington, D.C., created a sculpture at NJCU. The sculpture is a circle with the word "Art" in the 50 plus languages represented at NJCU.

NJCU is also increasing their outreach to the NJCU campus community. According to Bajor, "The first place to start recruiting is working with our graduating seniors and that's working with the Registrar."

Bajor also wants to work with the Alumni office, as well, when it comes to outreach.

According to Bajor, the big key to attracting students is streamlining the process.

"We were losing students who just wanted to take one or two courses here, because they had to do the whole application. The people in the graduate office have always been friendly, it's just the process may not have been as friendly."

Saint Peter's College has recently been trying to court Hudson County Community College (HCCC) students into going there instead of NJCU.

According to Bruno, though, "We have some amazing articulated programs with HCCC. Through our S.T.E.M. Grant, we're hiring our very own NJCU person housed at HCCC who will help their students transfer to NJCU."

NJCU has been working ceaselessly and tirelessly in recruiting and retention, a big indicator is the increase in undergraduate enrollment. While the issue with the graduate enrollment is being dealt with head on by administrators, there is room for students to join in.

Through the many different attempts to attract students to campus, Bajor ultimately admits that, "Our most creative ideas come from students who come into our office."

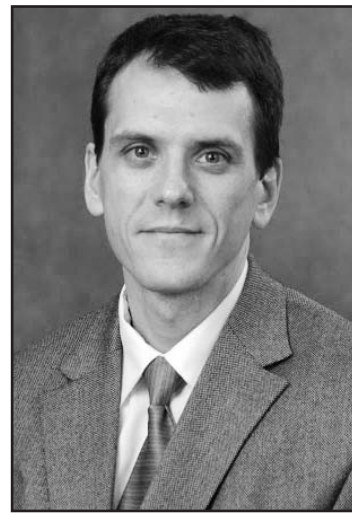
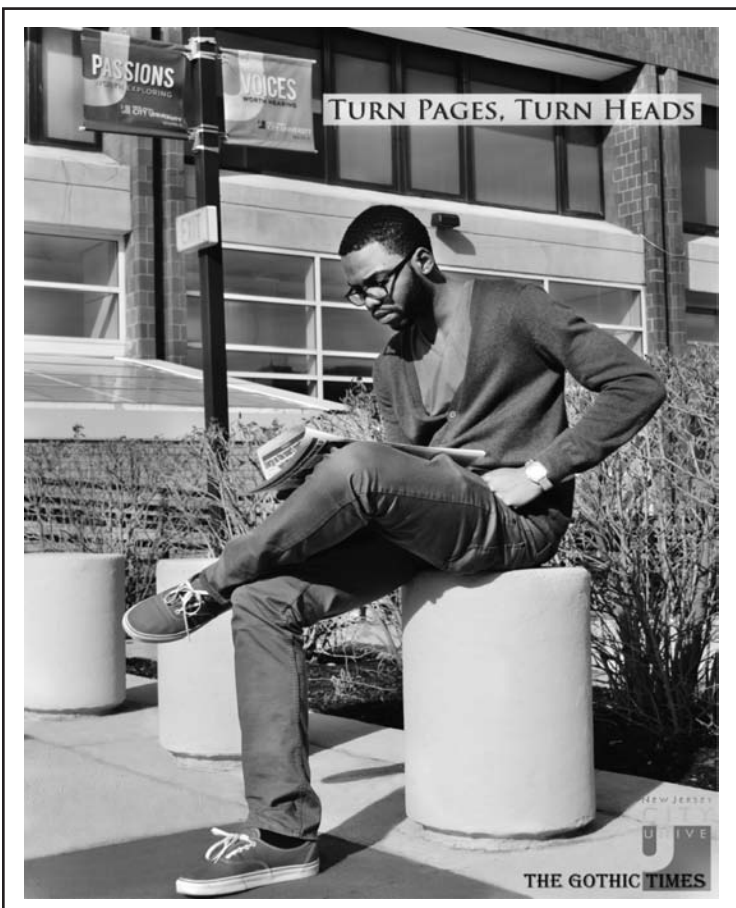


Photo by Lou Tiscornia

William J. Bajor, Ph.D.,
Acting Director of Graduate Studies & Continuing Education

You sell the image we're working hard to do, when you get a face with what we say, it means more," said Bruno.

According to Bruno, "NJCU is recognized as an unknown gem. When people come on this campus, they fall in love with it. They're impressed by the students, administrators, the staff,





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LIFESTYLE

NJCU's Hunger Games

By Paige Botjer and Hannah Botjer

This April, Gourmet Dining held a contest so hot it would knock your socks off! This contest was so hot that waivers needed to be signed in order for the contestants to even get their hands on the chicken wings. It was the Hot Wing Eating Contest sponsored by the Iota Phi Theta fraternity.

The difficult two round competition held eight contestants ready to sacrifice their lips and tongues: Don Santiago, Corey Brumfield, Amanda Torres, Felix Zamora, Eduardo Cabanilla, Patrick

Reilly, Katherine Albanferre, Ciara Broadway, Eder Sanchez, Kaycey McClenny, Travio Magnus and Kamal Peters.

Before the contest there was a brief pie-eating contest. As fresh piping apple pie was tempting for the contestants. Participators Patrick Reilly, Don Santiago, and Corey Brumfield braced themselves for the pie-eating contest. No hands were allowed and the first person to finish the whole pie was to win.

"My strategy is too eat the top first then to eat the sides," said Don Santiago.

As the participants dove head first into the pie, onlookers could

only watch as they came up for air like dolphins covered in whip cream and apples. At the end Patrick Reilly stood victorious, and prepared himself for the hot wing contest.

At the beginning of the contest, the contestants were skeptical. Eduardo Cabanilla remarked, "It had better be spicy!"

Each of the contests believed that they had what it took to win this hot competition.

At the start, the contestants tore through the wings, and the first rule of the first round: Make sure the bone is completely clean! During the competition, the contestants couldn't so much as touch the glass of milk or they were out for good.

By the end of the competition, Katherine Albanferre stated, "I'm dying! The wings were just that hot!"

It was difficult three-minute competition and sadly, Corey Brumfield, Tavio Magnus, and Patrick Reilly could not take the heat and didn't make it to the second round.

The trick to this eating contest, Don Santiago informed me, was to eat a lot of something that you like. "You have to really know how to eat the food or else you can't do it."

The people who moved onto the second round included, Don Santiago, Eduardo Cabanilla,



Photo by Hannah Botjer

Ciera Broadway

Kaycey McClenny, and Amanda Torres. As they dove into the second round of wings, the spice was beginning to take its toll on them.

"I feel it every time I breathe," said Kaycey McClenny, "It's out of control!"

They tore through the wings, red in the face and taking quick glances at the milk in front of them. As the end of the three minutes neared shouts of encouragement rang from the crowd.

And the winner is... Kaycey McClenny! As they held her arm up, she couldn't be bothered with



Photo by Hannah Botjer

Patrick Reilly

celebrations. She quickly grabbed the milk and drank it as fast as she could. The other contestants did the same. And so concludes NJCU's Hunger Games.



Photo by Hannah Botjer

Hot Wings contestants

The Greeks know fashion

By Kristina Valera

On April 10, Mu Sigma Upsilon hosted a Four Seasons Fashion show contest. It was a fundraiser which showcased various seasonal fashion sets worn by males and females.

The models who participated represented six Fraternities/ Sororities: Iota, Kappa, TKE, PSP, OPC and MSU (Mu Sigma Upsilon did not participate, but organized the event) in friendly competition.

The three chosen judges, Jessica Vasquez, Lucy Cuba and Amani S Jennings, critiqued the models in four categories: Creativity, Personality, Clothes and Swag.

In addition, the six contenders had to incorporate their fraternities/sororities colors into the batch. The categories were scored on a range of one to five; the group that scored the most won.

The first category season, fall, waltzed on the catwalk sporting trendy outfits. The favored outfit, the cotton sweater vest with white fur, was worn amongst several models. Each model displayed personality as they posed for the audience. The host announced the winter collection. The males sported sleek trench coats, winter caps and scarves, one went as far to twirl a red and white cane with finesse. The girls equally exemplified style with knee high leather boots, knitted warm cardigans with slim, fitted pants to complete the look.

Next group was the Spring category. A pastel of bright colors like pink and yellow



GreekFlix.com

Fernando Valencia

make their way on stage. A group of models from OPC stole the stage with fitted skinny jeans and tight short sleeved shirts.

The crowd hollered as the summer models arrived and dominated the catwalk. The stage was filled with models showing off in their tropical shorts and cut off midriff shirts, tie dyed tanks accompanied with a nice pair of shades.

The pounding music, followed by the encouraging applause of the crowd contributed to the loud and proud poses of many of the models.

The two winners were Iota in first place and TKE in second. This being the organization's second year to host the fashion show, the response overall regarding the fashion show was positive.

The success of the fashion show is surely to guarantee many more to come.



GreekFlix.com

Greek Four Seasons Fashion Show

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LIFESTYLE

Summer fashion: Heat up the summer with new fashion

By Jordan Freels

Ever question yourself about what outfit to wear to start your day? Summer season is the best time for cute outfits to be worn. According to millionlooks.com, a trendy fashion site, printed, floral, and animal clothing are a few trends that are stylish for the summer. Other fashion styles include, crop tops, (which may seem like casual wear but more recently this design has been transformed into a more evening-style), Bra Tops (self explanatory, bra's that are designed to look more like a top and not an under-garment), Hot Pants (commonly known as shorts), A-symmetrical clothing, and any article of clothing in black/white coloring. These articles of clothing could be found in any popular store, or outlet. Having an up to par sense of fashion may seem hard to accomplish with all the celebs sporting expensive outfits, but these same designs can be worn by non-celebs at an even cheaper price! Many celebs are seen sporting cute



Hottest dresses for the upcoming summer

Photo by Word Press



Red coat

Photo by Poly Love

maxi-dresses, and these flowing dresses can be worn on a hot summer day or a cool and comfortable day in the spring. People.com, gossip magazine and website, has a spread of fashionable clothing, and while some of the items are expensive they should not break your bank. Jessica Alba

sports a rainbow-horizontal striped shirt that cost \$62.99. People Magazine is advertising Kim Kardashian's jean line, which can also be bought at Jag Jeans for only \$20. A cute clasped-coat can be found at your local Forever 21 for \$20. What outfit would not look right without accessories? A trendy brown satchel that cost \$30.00 can be found at Nordstrom. What outfit would not be complete without stylish earrings? People are advertising



Blue/black dress

Photo by Live Journal

gold stylish moon-shaped earrings and a gold bangle from ASOS.com for \$8.00 and \$10.00. Forever 21 is also selling a banana colored handbag with a black band around the edge for \$26.80. Glamour.com, fashion forward

magazine and website, has fashionable outfit's suggestions for under \$35. One option of dress could be a spring dress (similar to a maxi dress but shorter) and throw a cardigan on top. Another stylish look is pairing a cotton skirt with a heavier pull over shirt. Glamour also has stylish handbags to sport with your outfit of choice. Glamour sells a vintage handbag through Etsy.com for \$30; this trendy bag will work for both spring and summer, a perfect beach bag! Also from Etsy.com, Glamour advertises a blue and brown leather clutch for \$44. One of the most expensive handbags Etsy's carries is a line suede bag for \$155, which has a draw string to close/open the bag. No matter what outfit you decide to wear it'll be cute and stylish because you have your own unique way of dressing. These outfits are suggestions in-case you decide to switch-up your dressing style whether it be a more casual or special occasion. While these outfits might not suit every ones fancy these fashions are what is in for this season. Enjoy and have fun in the sun with your stylish wear!

Summer fitness: Ohh, I like your bod

By Rafal Rogoza

Put down that bag of chips, say goodbye to mashed potatoes, and no, you can't butter up that piece of toast in the morning. Yeah, it sucks but if you want to look fresh for the summertime you have to get started now. Below are reliable tips that will help improve your overall health and tighten up your body.

1) Knowledge is Power

Most people make the mistake of going to the gym and dieting without educating themselves about proper eating or exercising habits. If you don't know what you're doing than most likely you're wasting your time. Pick up a few books on proper stretching, weight lifting, aerobics, and cooking. The library has plenty of material that can help you out. Also, take advantage of the brain power at the athletic center and ask fitness professors for advice and suggestions.

2) Learn to Cook

No, you don't need an apron and mittens but you do need to know the fundamentals. Dieting is key to any successful training regimen. If you're a beginner, pick up a paperback copy of Men's Health Muscle Chow. It has over a hundred easy and fast recipes for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. It's also a great source that will help you understand what it takes to supply yourself with proper nutrition. Remember, no matter what you do at the gym, if your eating habits don't match your training regimen you



Photo by Sean Rammarian

JMAC Fitness Center

might as well relax on a lazyboy because you won't see results.

3) Listen to Your Body

Put down the heavy weights and don't run to the point that you throw up. At some point your body just can't take it so don't force it because it's not productive. It's only a matter of time before you get hurt. What's the point of working hard if the next day your body stiffens up to the point you can't move? Listen to your body and gradually increase the workload of your workout. You'll avoid injuries now and as you get older. Keep



Photo by Sean Rammarian

Managing editor venting when writers miss deadlines.

in mind your body is a complicated machine.

4) The Gym is not Necessary

If the gym is funky up with sweat than dip in the pool for a few laps or get on the dance floor. Not only will you lose weight dancing but you'll improve your coordination and rhythm. If you're self conscious about your dance moves check out the Salsa Club on campus, you'll learn a few steps and have a fun time. Swimming is probably the best workout for your body because you're using almost every muscle in your body. It's great for cardio and it's refreshing.

5) Consistency

Once you know what you're doing in the gym and the kitchen you just need to be consistent. There's nothing wrong with treating yourself once in awhile to a little junk food or taking a day off from your workout but don't let your lazy side get the best of you. A good way to stay consistent and improve your training habit is to keep a log. For example, tally up how many days you have worked out in the first month then try to beat that number the next month. Try to maintain that competitive approach to your workout.



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Jersey City's NIGHTLIGHT shines alongside DEV and Outasight

By Allison Lozada

NJCU's alumnus Marquis Anthony, aka NIGHTLIGHT, from Jersey City will be performing and opening for dance pop artists Dev and Outasight at Crocodile Rock in Allentown, PA on Wednesday May 2nd.

NIGHTLIGHT gave credit to his NJCU academic career for his musical talent. "Whenever [I] sing a note or pick up an instrument I'm reminded of just how much studying music at NJCU helped me become the musician I am today." He also admitted that because of NJCU, he became more fluent in the language of music.

When it comes to his inspirations for his songwriting he is very affected by emotions. "I find myself most inspired by feelings and moods," said NIGHTLIGHT, "I'll hear a song or watch a movie and feel something very strong and vivid and [decide] to create music that evokes that same

feeling." Although emotions are the main influence, they are not his only muse. NIGHTLIGHT added, "a look a girl gives me on the street, a phrase from a book I'm reading, the way the grass smells after that rain," are other inspirations.

Although Dev and Outasight can be considered mainstream pop, NIGHTLIGHT's influences are in a different genre. NIGHTLIGHT seeks out Prince when looking to invigorate himself. "He has a timeless sound, he's one of my heroes." Billy Corgan of Smashing Pumpkins also helps motivate him because, "Seeing Billy Corgan as this do-it-all, write-it-all front man, who still seemed vulnerable and human, really made me feel that a career as a performer in music was possible."

The performance is specifically important to NIGHTLIGHT because "it's the very first live Nightlight show ever." He continued to explain, "I feel very thankful that I get to share these songs and this performance with Dev's and Outasight's fans."



Photo courtesy of Nick Schlatmann

NIGHTLIGHT

While talented artists such as Prince and the Smashing Pumpkins lead his big dreams, he also acknowledged his mentor and high school music teacher Rod Shepard. "[He] taught me volumes worth of information on the music industry, songwriting, arranging, [and] performing... he was an integral part of my development as an artist," said NIGHTLIGHT. He also looked to his manager, Nick Schlatmann, for guidance. "Nick really helped me kickstart my career... He's a networking genius and really amazing at what he does."

With all the musical experience NIGHTLIGHT has had, he is fully confident he will succeed in the music industry. "One year from now I see myself performing at the MTV's VMAs (Video Music Awards) [and] hopefully nominated for Best New Artist," said NIGHTLIGHT and also adding, "Five years from now I see myself headlining a world tour."

NIGHTLIGHT shares advice to NJCU cam-

NIGHTLIGHT



Photo courtesy of Nick Schlatmann

NIGHTLIGHT

pus encouraging them to follow their dreams, especially if they are pursuing music. "From your first day as a freshman you should be forming bands outside of school, going to New York to see musicals, operas, and plays. [Have] your face seen and your voice heard by as many professionals as possible." He also added, "This business and this world are all about meeting people. Combine your knowledge with a world class work ethic and the people will seem to find you."

NIGHTLIGHT's latest collaboration is with a surprising artist, "When Nick first told me that King DMC called himself a 'huge fan of NIGHTLIGHT,' I knew I was on the right path... my jaw hit the floor and I couldn't stop smiling for weeks," admitted NIGHTLIGHT.

To listen to NIGHTLIGHT music just visit the iTunes store or follow him on youtube.com/nightlightofficial, facebook.com/nightlightofficial, and twitter.com/nightlightitup

He leaves us with his mantra, "Set goals that are big enough to inspire you to face each and every day with passion and ambition."

Retro Review: A Return To Survival Horror

Resident Evil/Resident Evil 2

By Patrick Reilly

With the recent releases of Resident Evil Revelations, the offshoot Resident Evil Operation Raccoon City, and expected release of Resident Evil 6 in October, it was time for a reunion with the games that started it all.

Anyone who's played Resident Evil 4 & 5 can completely forget what was learned. You'll recognize certain elements such as herbs and limited item space, but these games are quite different. If you play these games thinking you can blow away every enemy you're "undead" wrong.

Because of the heavy amount of backtracking, limited ammo, scarce health items, and the necessity of holding leftover items in storage boxes, the game forces you to pick and choose your fights. There are also a limited amount of saves which the game ranks you on making it just that much difficult.

Resident Evil's setting is in a mansion where a secret underground facility leaks a virus known as the T-Virus, mutating the workers and animals nearby into zombies. Among



Google images

Resident Evil 1

these creatures are escaped experiments also known as bio-organic weapons. It is generally a creepy and atmospheric place highlighted by the tension of walking through claustrophobic halls and the pacing of enemies.

In the game you play one of two characters Jill or Chris, two members of the town's Special Tactics and Rescue Services also known as S.T.A.R.S. Generally, the faults with this game are the really bad voice actors and weird localization of language, especially in the infamous line, "Here, Jill, you are the master of Unlocking."

The game, which can seem difficult, never feels impossible. Although the Chris play

through is annoying because of the necessary backtracking to item boxes, the game is still extremely fun.

Resident Evil 2 is, more or less, similar in game play as 1, yet you are now in the zombie-infested, fictional town Raccoon City. The additions, while minor, still keep true to the core of the Resident Evil series. I will also note that while the game limits how many characters could be on screen at one time, the game still makes you feel that a horde of zombies are after you.

Overall these games are solid, creepy, and I recommend to anyone who loves the survival horror genre or the Resident Evil series to play these games.

Spoken Words

By Elisheva M.R.

The Spoken Words event, which was held on campus at the Soul Café, was definitely something worth going to. The great vibe, the wonderful music, and, not to mention the talented musicians, vocalist and poets who performed, made this an event to remember! I must admit that I was surprised by all of the talented performers.



Photo by GT staff
Open mic at Spoken Word event

There were many performers who did an excellent job. One of the featured performers was poet Kesed. It was very clear to see the passion that Kesed felt for his craft. He became interested in poetry in the fourth grade, due to his teacher putting a pen in his hand. Kesed performed a few of his poems, which include

Spoken Word event at the Soul Café.

"Mama," "Where I'm From," and "Goddess." Another performer was the poet Osage, 26, Criminal Justice, from Brooklyn, NY, who performed a few poems such as "When She's Gone," a poem inspired by his ex, who cheated on him. Osage admits to being upset and emotional when this event took place but he used his emotions to create a beautiful piece of work. Once he finished performing, he felt great because he received great responses from the audience.

Kesed has advice for anyone who wants to write poetry.

"Just keep writing and live, as long as your living there's always something to write," he said.

Words such as this inspire others to continue to reinvent and create wonderful work. Everyone who attended seemed to enjoy themselves – the mood of the environment seemed to be lifted with the lifting words of the performers.

"This event was entertaining and mind-boggling," said Kiera Broadway, 20, Undecided.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Costume Designs by Flo

By Allison Lozada with additional reporting from the Gothic Times Staff

Flo Rutherford, of the Music and Theatre Department, was the costume designer that recently dressed up *Done to Death* at the New Jersey City University (NJCU) Margaret Williams Theatre. Learning to sew from her grandmother in high school, Rutherford always tried to tie her talents in with history.

“A lot of shows are set in different historic periods. As you are working on trying to do research, you may find out a lot about a period when looking at pictures and how people have worn their clothes,” explains Rutherford.



Photo courtesy of Flo Rutherford
Designer Flo Rutherford

She added that it’s not enough to just learn about the period but also have the actor realize the importance of the costumes. “You have to try to not only learn about the different period but you have to help the performer understand that these are not just strange and exotic but

that these are things people have to feel comfortable in.”

Having gone to Wake Forest University for her undergrad studies, Rutherford became involved in the theatre department. “When I first got involved there was [no permanent] designer on staff at

the time, so students did a lot of the costumes. After realizing I was a bad actress, I learned I was better at sowing.” Rutherford ex-



Photo courtesy of Donna Connolly
Production of Bizet’s arrangement by Marius Constant La Tragédie de Carmen

plained she “felt at home” when it came down to designing. For almost forty years she has been working as a costume designer.

Besides working at NJCU, Rutherford has worked in regional theatre, off-Broadway, in a summer theatre, and more recently, with a children’s company.

In *Done to Death* she worked with the director, Anderson Johnson, to realize what his vision was for the play. In the comedic lighthearted mystery, Rutherford created the costumes to transition from reality to the imaginary parts of the play.



Photo courtesy of Donna Connolly
Production of Henry Purcell’s Dido & Aeneas

“As a costume designer you review the script and understand each character and select clothes that will define that character’s personalities and how they interact with the other characters,” said Rutherford, “When dealing with a play, the director always has a vision and you [the costume designer] want to help the director realize that vision.”

Scarlett Santiago, 22, Psychology major from North Bergen played as Jane in *Done to Death* said the costumes were fantastic considering the little time and budget Rutherford was given. “They were really good. They stuck to the time and what needed to be done. The budget we had and the time she had, it was well done because we had limitations.” Rutherford was given about a month and half to design, fit, and alter all costumes before show time.

“There was some stuff she had in storage and then there were things she needed to go out and buy,” said Santiago. She was content that despite the lack of time, all costumes were done beautifully.

Creating a similar image, but staying away from the exact replica was most enjoyable to Rutherford when working on the designs for *Done to Death*.

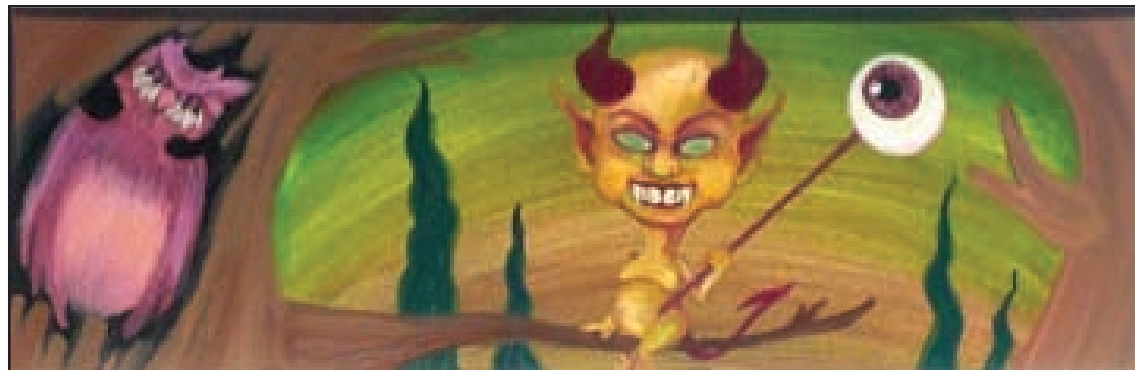
“Because the play was parodying certain style of mystery writing, essentially, the characters in the role were similar to Agatha Christie... having to go back and look at these different people and coming up with a way to reference Nick and Nora Charles,” said Rutherford.

The main goal was to have people who are familiar with these characters realize they are being represented in the play.

Depending on the play, different things inspire Rutherford. She works with so many different genres that she can’t get her inspirations all from one place and it varies from music to art, etc.

“Every show is different [and] that’s what makes it interesting,” said Rutherford.

She teaches that even something as random as fish or a rum and coke can become an inspiration when looked deeper than the surface.



Photos by Lauren Evans (copyright) used with permission

Strigliber

The Fantasy Art of Lauren Evans

By Husniyah Ford and Armando Sultan

Lauren Evans, who is a 22 old Illustration Major, exposed her art work in the art buildings Gallery. This is done under the BFA program to give the students a chance to present their work in a professional manner.

“This gallery opening was my most important achievement in my field thus far, and I look forward to many more successful ones in my future,” expressed Evans about this memorable event.

Lauren Evans presented eight pieces, which included *Telope Vertical*, *Avesvaria Vertical*, and *Strigliber* to name a few of these wonderfully rendered paintings.

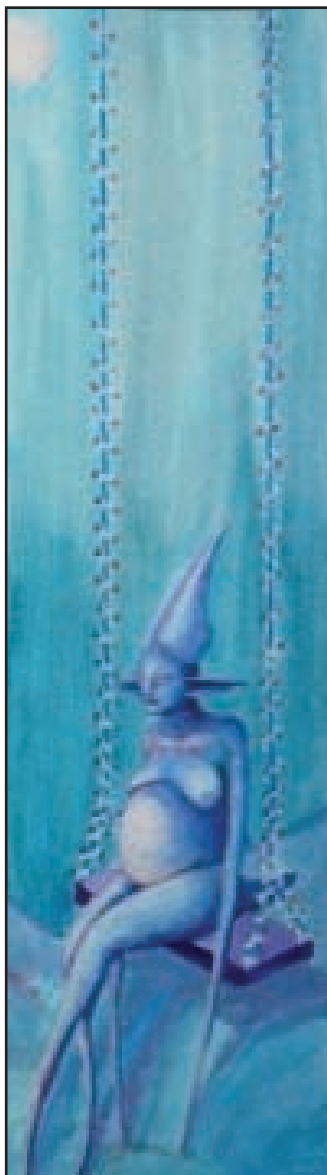
Her medium of choice is Gouache, a unique paint that is most often used by illustrators. When questioned about her style, or rather her uniqueness, Lauren commented, “My art tends to be a woman figure and usually has reoccurring characteristics such as bald heads,

nudes, horns, nuance style of ears, long necks, swollen bellies, and estranged skin colors.”

Although the figures appear to be monsters, or mythical creatures, they seem to have an air of elegance and beauty. As if to say, they are part of a surreal fantasy world that is inviting, almost embracing to the viewer.

Evans talks about the professors that really helped her expand her artistic talent, and ultimately, as a person. “Advisor and Professor Dittrich really helped me get a better grasp on what makes things look more three-dimensional and how to blend and maneuver paint.”

Approaching the end of her education at NJCU, Evans said, “I will have my Art Teacher Certification upon graduating, so most likely I will be teaching art at an urban-centered school. Eventually, I would like to get my masters and teach as a Professor, as I really want to provoke thought in my students and I think a college university would be a lot of fun as a challenge.”



Telope and Arovire

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

FEATURES

Get creative! Join the Animation Club.

Matthew Barnes

Are you a student who enjoys anime and comics? Maybe you just like digital media and want to share your passion for it with other people? If you do, join the Animation Club.

The Animation Club was just recently founded. Meetings are conducted on Wednesday, Thursday, and occasionally Friday. The meetings consist of talking about club activities, socializing and discussing media. But above all, have fun while ex-

pressing a common interest and express your fervor for anime and comics.

As of now, the club is working on inducting itself into student government, if you feel you can contribute, or just interested in joining the club and meeting new people. Come to the art building and go to room 221 on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday at 5 p.m.

Remember, the animation club is where you can get animated and creative!



Photo courtesy of Matthew Barnes
Anime drawing by Matthew Barnes



Dragonball Z is a popular anime.

Google images

DIVERSITY STRIDE

A walk of diversity

By Huda Ayyad

Efforts towards the annual Diversity Stride have already begun at the New Jersey City University community.

Multiple groups, students, and departments in the NJCU community raised funds for the annual "Diversity Stride."

"Diversity stride is a great opportunity to bring awareness to the community on the different cultures that encompasses NJCU," says Yamara Salazar, Assistant Director of Residence Life.

This stride will take place on May 20, 2012 in Liberty State Park. Participants will walk along the waterfront with the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island as the backdrop for this event. The proceeds will support the American Conference on Diversity Youth Leadership Institute Programs, which educate and empower young leaders throughout New Jersey. There is no fee to walk, it is a optional donation. This event will run from 12:00-3:30 p.m. and there will be refreshments and cultural entertainment.

The walk celebrates diversity in New Jersey. Jersey City is known for its diversity, and New Jersey City University is also known as a very diverse school. According to JerseyCity.com, 75 languages are spoken in Jersey City.

The organization of this event is known as "The American Conference on Diversity". According to the americanconferenceondiversity.org, the mission of this group is "To

work with leaders to create and enhance a society that embraces social justice for us all. To value diversity, educate and empower leaders, promote inclusion and respect in schools, workplaces and communities."

Students at NJCU are already excited for this event. Miriham Hanna, an English major, says "This walk signifies our leadership, and community service. It is also a great chance to reunite and network with one another".

This years goal is to raise \$100,000. "I take great pleasure in fundraising through the National Society of Leadership and Success, and Residence Life," says Salazar.

Be a part of this great cause by showing up to the walk or make a donation to the following NJCU teams:

NJCU TEAMS

New Jersey City University Public Safety Department: \$150.00

NJCU Counseling & Wellness: \$479.32

NJCU University Advise-ment Center: \$35.00

NJCU National Society of Leadership and Success: \$389.00

Residence Life : \$97.00

NJCU Registrar's Office: \$120.00

NJCU Financial Aid: \$200.00

NJCU College of Educa-tion: \$500.00

Huda's Birthday Gift: \$5.00

Two of the current top 5 fundraisers are from the NJCU community.

Donations can be made at 2012DiversityStride.kintera.org. Visit to donate to any of these NJCU teams.



'Due today means do today?!

By Huda Ayyad

I once read a status that said, "Due today means do today." I started laughing and I realized this is a sad, but true, state of mind of many students. Many students wait until the day before or the day of finals to actually start on their final paper or study. This is one of the worst habits a student can have. Throughout your college career you will constantly hear these words: "Procrastination" and "Time Management."

During your college career, you will come to realize most of the information you learn is practically useless in your future career. Most times students complain about how they have to take a course which has nothing to do with their major or perceived career. We don't take these classes to just learn what "x+y=?" or "Bill of Rights", but rather these course are preparing us for the real-world. The real world is all about time management, responsibility, and organizational skills. The professor does not assign you a final ten page paper simply to make you write but rather they are teaching you the importance of responsibility and time management. Failing to submit that paper on time will lead to consequences of a lower grade. The same outcomes apply for your future career, if you don't do your tasks on time you will face serious consequences which may even lead to the loss of your job.

Remember the concept of "due today means do today" is not ap-

plicable to the real-world, because in the real world if you decide to do your tasks the day they are due, you will most likely face some consequences.

Luckily NJCU students have resources to take advantage of. The Counseling Center offers multiple "Academic Skills Workshops" throughout the semester.

If you need more assistance in your actual course work and understanding the concepts and etc, take advantage of the FREE tutoring services in practically every subject. To check out their schedules, and locations, visit njcu.edu/Tutoring.

Some of the tutoring services include:

Writing:

Kamoutsos 115 or call 201.200.2401. All appointments must be scheduled online.

Math:

Kamoutsos Hall, Room 552. Two types of tutoring are offered: walk-in and by appointment.

Biology:

Science Building, Room 335 Tutors schedule appointments with students individually or in small groups.

FEATURES

Tips to leading a semi-stress-free college life

By Idressa Melvin

“The Happiest time of your Life!” This phrase is often belated to you in a repetitive fashion through the entirety of your college career, but is it that glamorous? Endless nights of breaking down in an attempt to finish a huge assignment; reading countless pages that you forget as soon as you lay eyes on them; or how about the always enjoyable group project with that classmate that has no idea what he’s doing? This, in combination with social pressures and the common desire to “find yourself” in college, actually causes this to be the most stressful time of your life.

So now that graduation approaches, one would assume that those annoying stresses that have plagued you throughout the years would mellow out or become easier to cope with, but in fact, they have a tendency to intensify in the months before the big day.

So how do you deal with it? First of all, file for graduation clearance! The sooner you apply the better, and no later than November (if you are expecting to be done by May, for December it is a different deadline). It has become an NJCU tradition for students to assume that they are fine to graduate in May and are shocked to find out the list of credits they’ve missed. So make life simpler and easier for yourself and get your clearance as soon as possible.

Prioritize your School Work Organization is key to stress reduction. Write down your assignments and the dates they are due. Do not make the mistake and rely solely on your memory, because with a list of things to complete, this almost always ends in disaster. Pick out those assignments that will take the longest to complete and get a head start. If you know exactly what is due, and when it has to be turned in, life will be a lot easier.



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Student cramming

Stop the procrastination There is nothing more stressful than having to cram at the last minute to complete an assignment with little to no time, especially when you knew it was due a month ago! However, this is one of the most common practices of college students who deem the infamous “all nighter” a normal college experience. But it doesn’t have to be! Get a head start on assignments, even if you do not completely finish them, so that you will not end up starting from scratch the night before. Take advantage of the gift of time and do your assignments whenever an opportunity arises to limit the amount of late minute stress.

Go to sleep We all know that having a social life is very important in college and there is nothing wrong with that, but the human body needs between seven to eight hours of sleep to be able to function properly during the day. So save the partying for the weekend, and allow yourself to get the sleep you need so that your brain is fully functioning when it’s time for class. There is nothing worse than staring at your professor as he is lecturing and not being able to retain any of the information because you are drifting in and out of consciousness. So get some rest and go to class with your best foot forward.

The Salute to Graduates of African Heritage is April 27

By Anthony Miles

The 26th annual “Salute to Graduates of African Heritage,” will take place on April 27th from 4pm to 6pm in Multipurpose Room B located in GSUB.

The event formerly called the “Salute to Black Graduates” was renamed to “encompass the entire African diaspora,” says Amani Jennings, Dean of Students at NJCU.

Amani, who is also president of B.A.A.F.S.S.O (Black Administrators Alumni Faculty Students and Staff Organization) and an NJCU graduate, participated in the salute in 1997.

Leah Jackson, academic advisor and member of B.A.A.F.S.S.O. will be there to co-chair the event. She says that renaming the event was probably done to “be more inclusive. Not every [student] identifies as black, others identify as Caribbean or are of African descent.”

Janelle Thompson and Avron Isaac will be awarded at the ceremony for having the highest GPA among undergraduate students. Danielle Mohammed and Kerri Hennessy will be awarded for having the highest GPA among graduate students.

Jennings suggests, “[the salute] is essentially a mini graduation.”

He added that working in the dean’s office; his job does not always entail congratulating students on their academic achievements. He also admits that “the retention rate among minorities is not very high,” but was very confident that number could get better.

The theme of this year’s



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Graduation Day

salute, “Poised for Progress, Creating a Circle of Success,” was taken from President Obama’s 2010 State of The Union Address. Jackson encourages students to, “Get [their] education and begin to work in the community. Be encouraged and be inspired. It’s what we call the never-ending circle of success.”

Amani urges students “not to just take your degree and disappear. Go out and do something with it.”

Each year, the salute recognizes a person for their help and strong cultural leadership. This year, President Hernandez will be honored.

“He is a huge supporter of B.A.A.F.S.S.O and attends every salute,” says Jennings.

Jackson adds, “This is a special case because of his retirement this year. [Hernandez] is very instrumental in B.A.A.F.S.S.O and a leader in regards to cultural diversity, and is always encouraging students of color to be the best.”

Andrew Platizky, director of the Opportunity Scholarship Program (OSP), will be there to receive the Community Service Award at this year’s ceremony for going above and

beyond the call of service.

LeDerick Horne, an NJCU graduate, has been asked to be the keynote speaker this year. According to Jennings, this is the first time a former student has been given the privilege to speak before the graduates. Horne is a poet, entrepreneur, and advocate who routinely talks in schools all over the country. His website, lederick.com, details that “his message addresses increasing confidence, academic performance, self-determination, and self-advocacy by challenging conventional teaching styles and asking his audience to look beyond negative labels.”

LeDerick is also the board chair of Project Eye to Eye, a non-profit program that mentors young students with learning disabilities and ADHD.

Jennings revealed that this program has become an institutional tradition and suggested that in “a place where the issue is that we don’t have too many things that are tradition, the ‘salute’ is one thing that is.”

He insists that, “Students look forward to it, are aware of it, know about it, and want to partake in it.”



BLACK ADMINISTRATORS, ALUMNI, FACULTY, STUDENTS & STAFF ORGANIZATION

BAAAFSSO

Statistics of New Jersey graduates working within their field of study

By Nachalie Rodriguez

With graduation approaching, students become excited and overwhelmed at the same time with the “what if” thoughts. “What if I don’t find a job within my field of study? What if I don’t find a job with a decent pay? What if interview after interview I don’t hear back from an employer?”

With the unstable economy that we are facing, landing a good paying job within your field of study has become a rarity. With the job market being frustrating at times, the best thing to do is remain positive, keeping in mind that it may take more than six months to find a decent job that can pay enough to cover basic expenses and loans.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, New Jersey’s unemployment rate

is at 9.0, which sounds awful, but there is still hope says Shanette Taylor, 26, who graduated in December of 2011 from New Jersey City University, “I majored in education and sociology. I have advanced in my current job through more field work; however my pay hasn’t advanced much. I’ve put in for new positions and I am currently working on my resume. Jobs I have been offered pay less than my current job. The economy is really horrible. But I have ventured out and started my own business outside my field of study.”

Collegegrad.com stated last year that another way of landing a job after graduation would be the undergraduate major and whether the student has held an internship or has previous work experience. There has also been an increase of 22% from 2010 in entry-level positions in companies such as: Enterprise Rent-A-

Car, Teach for America, Verizon Wireless, hertz, Pricewaterhouse coopers, KPMG, LLP, Target, Ernst & Young, City Year and Aerotek.

The College Graduate Salary Statistics show that most popular degrees are BS in Accounting, Finance, Computer Science and Business Management with salaries ranging between \$28,383 - \$90,744.

Even though many recent graduates may not find jobs within their fields, a State or Federal job may be the answer for some.

Kelly Rodriguez, 28, Jersey City graduated from Rutgers Newark in 2008 with a BS in Criminal Justice said, “I finally got my foot in the door last year working for the federal government as an officer for TSA under the department of Homeland Security, currently in the process hiring pool with both the U.S. Customs and

Immigration to become an officer.”

President Obama has also proposed a new rule for students and recent graduates starting in the summer of 2012. The proposed programs are for agencies to reform Federal hiring processes for recent graduates. There are three programs: internship programs, recent graduate programs and presidential management fellows programs.

The internship programs are for students who are currently in school who will be given the opportunity to work in federal agencies while still going to school. The proposed recent graduates program are for recent grads from qualifying institutions and PMF program are for advanced degree candidates.

There is still hope for college graduates in the workforce.

OPINION & ADVICE

EDITORIAL

You are one of the few

As May is rapidly approaching and students in their final year are catching "Senioritis," the only thing to look forward to is graduation. After spending four years (or six) on the same campus, reading the same books, looking at the same professors, it is a refreshing conclusion to your college career. Whether you decide to walk on stage or wait those three months to finally pick up that diploma, keep in mind you've earned it.

With NJCU's graduation rate low, you should feel accomplished that you've made it this far and can proudly say you have finished finals with a re-

ward waiting for you. Now that you are considered a college graduate, you can either continue your education earning your Masters or jump into the waiting pool of your career choice.

Although your diploma will make your resume look better, keeping connections with past

professors and guest speakers can aid you in your career. Remember: it's who you know.

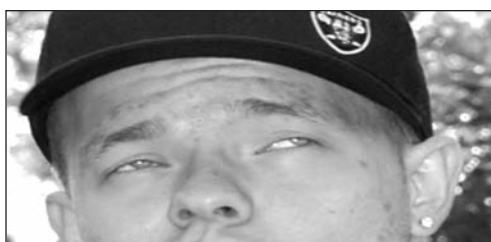
If you want to continue graduate school, take a year off so you can relax and take your time in choosing which school is right for you. There is nothing worse than deciding on the wrong school and regretting every waking moment. It can become discouraging and force you to shy away from earning your Masters.

Whether you want to jump into your career or look into graduate schools, remember, you are one of the few who has made it to the top. Enjoy it!



THE FINAL COLUMN

Roasting the Gothic Times Crew



Rafal Rogoza

Photo by Sean Rammarian

By Rafal Rogoza

The Editor in Chief, Ally, is about 4'11, 140 lbs., and looks somewhat like a Yorkie. Ally notoriously struggles penning her sex columns. When she has writer's block, the girl breaks into a sweat and downs a bucket load of Dasani water, that is, of course, when she's not busy breaking the blinds in the office. You have to love the girl, because she's always late and punctually leaves early. The fact is, without Ally, this paper would have no balance. Some of us here would take things too far, but Ally's paranoia about potential blowback from some of our stories keeps us zealot newsies in check.



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GT staff

Ally has writer's block.

you have to read them twice – seriously read them twice – no, you're not a dummy, we don't know what he's saying either. The Dr. Azami reads like a mythical, hungry beast consuming innocent sacrificial virgins. Another chapter closes my friend, please dumb down your writing style for the sake of the paper's only readers – our parents – at least the ones that speak English.

is "fauna." There's nothing elementary about Dr. Azami, he refuses to use words that we can pronounce. As I'm writing this Dr. Azami is editing and asks, "For the sake of concision. C-O-N-C-I-S-I-O-N, is that no good?"

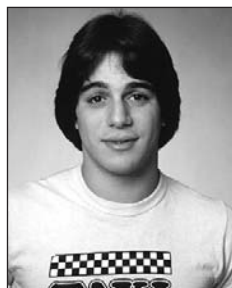
His articles are so thought-provoking



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n't mind, he likes showing them off anyway. Where would we be without Armando's classic cartoons like "Rorbert's Rule of Order," that's right "Rorbert's." God bless you cartoonist, you're a rockstar in the office and a diva at children's birthday parties.

Next! Our lifestyle editor Atilla Azami. Dr. Azami stands at 5'7, 165 pounds, and has long, soft, black hair with a greasy shine, a Tony Danza look alike if I have ever seen one. His vocabulary is so advanced that he makes the people that put together Webster's dictionary puke themselves. My personal favorite



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Last but not least, our Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Operations Specialist and deputy managing editor Monir Khilla who stands at 5'11 and weighs 175 pounds. Yes, those of you who may not know, Khilla is a nuclear material specialist. I'm serious, I'm not making this up. It's ironic, because sometimes Khilla crawls into the news office looking like he got hit by a nuclear bomb. Seriously, the man didn't sleep through the fall semester and has worn the same torn shoes since George Bush stole the 2000 election. Just last week he was sporting a scruffy beard that would make Moses jealous and wore a beat up hoody that he was clinging to like Linus from the Charlie Brown cartoons. Without Khilla, we wouldn't have printed anything this year. He is a trooper in every sense.

On some days the *Gothic Times* crew worked together on the newspaper from the break of dawn to midnight, editing, editing again, plotting, choking each other and laughing. It was a blessing and pleasure.



GT staff

Nuclear specialist

THE GOTHIC TIMES

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Letters to the Editor can also be sent to gothictimes@njcu.edu. All letters must be typed and include full name, age, major/occupation, class year, and hometown. A letter submission does not guarantee publication. *The Gothic Times* looks forward to hearing from you.

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This paper is printed on recycled content newspaper.

Reader responses from GothicTimes.net

Songstress and Siren, Jessica Galan (Page 8, April 5)

Ms Jessica Galan, a very beautiful talented young lady full of ambition and desire to succeed!! I am very proud of you my friend!! It is very rare to find a person like this in these times, so dedicated to what she loves, which is music. She has the combination of her love for music but she does not forget how important it is to love music and share her talent with the world along with an education, & well educated because this lady is an honor roll student... Isn't it incredible how one can dedicate herself to her talents which are many, dancing, singing, piano, along with keeping up so great in school! It is very hard, but she does it and that what makes her even more amazing. I support you 100 percent!! Best wishes & success in your career!! Love you

Comment By:
Gisell

With Jessica perhaps the less said, the better!... her art and being is, indeed, ineffable. Jessica not only has all these abilities, but the endurance which is the most difficult, and challenging. I applaud her endlessly...

Comment By:
Robert Lee Bernard

I have known Jessica for several years now. I was one of her back up dancers. I must say i never met a more motivated more talented woman in my life. She has made a difference in my life and i know for sure her music will make a difference in this world. I am proud of you for what you have become and i know i am destined to see you on MTV. I love you and keep up the great work!!!

Comment By:
Melinda

Class Cuts, Protests and Tensions Arise at NJCU (Page 1, December 7)

I graduated in 1979. 33 years later it's SOS. In the famous words of Steven Tyler, "It's the same old song and dance."

Comment By
Uncle Manny

Art Department rejects student's piece for display (Page 1, February 15)

I think that this issue is more complex than just a case of anti-Semitism. May I suggest that the artist, through the conscious use of the word "Juice" and illustrations of both apple and grape juice, and the quotation coming from the mouth of a young girl, appears to be making a tongue-in-cheek comment on the unconscious, subliminal transmission of baseless misunderstandings of facts from generation to generation. One could, perhaps, create a reasonable back-story in which the girl overheard someone repeating the persistent lie that the Jews killed Jesus. She heard "Jews" mispronounced as "juice" and created a narrative from that error.

I, for one, am willing to give the artist the benefit of the doubt and the reaction to this was reflexive and not considered.

Comment By:
David Rosenberg

*Frustrated, angry,
happy,
or excited
about a
Gothic Times article?*

*Sound off at
GothicTimes.net.*

OPINION & ADVICE

Letter to the Editor

If you have been to any of the computer labs recently you may have noticed you were asked to take an on-line survey about your computer usage in the labs. While taking surveys can be useful, students don't want to take them for various reasons, which in turn are not a true reflection of the student body as a whole. A lot of students do not own a laptop or they don't want to carry it around school all day; also many students like me do not have access to a computer or printer at home.

Although I was accepted to another university, I elected to attend NJCU because of its proximity, which is close to where I reside. I also loved the courses that were being offered, the beautiful campus, educational seminars and the diversity of the student body, and the computer labs.

As an older student returning to school, having access to the computer lab is very important to me, along with the support I have

received from the lab technicians who were thoroughly professional, knowledgeable and accommodating whenever I had a problem. There also needs to be more computer labs on campus especially in the library, Hepburn hall, and Vodra Hall.

The computers labs are one of the most important aspects of school life because we use them to do a myriad of things such as homework assignments, research papers, writing resumes for our internship programs, and financial aid.

Part of the school's curriculum also offers computer classes to students in the computer lab which means a lot of students have to wait a long time to gain access to a computer when classes are in session.

There should be a separate building to house the classes so that it doesn't interfere with our use in which there were several occasions when I was working on a paper I had to leave the area in order to accommodate the

classroom that was going to be in session.

Computers are very important to students and should not be considered when contemplating ways of saving money. Some of the high school students that are a part of NJCU Academy as well as local residents use the computer lab located in the library, which is a necessary resource for some in the community who do not have access to computers.

If NJCU is to be competitive in the upcoming future and compete with local colleges such as HCCC (Hudson Community College) and Saint Peters College, who have lowered their tuition, NJCU must become more innovative, progressive and student-oriented, along with being a college that understands the needs of the local community it resides in.

Earnell Ranghel, junior
Sociology Major
(graduates Spring 2013)

SGO should Rate My Professors

By Monir Khilla

It's almost become traditional for students to go to ratemyprofessors.com while registering for classes, but this pseudo-source is largely unreliable. Students have this naive

notion that the site is a sacrosanct Mecca that they and only they go on to rate professors. Well, the joke's on us. Not only do professors know about the website, some even leave good ratings for themselves. They let their family, other professors, and even friends go on and leave good reviews, so students get sucked into going into their class. One professor told me they had their daughter (who goes to another university) log on to the website and leave good comments.

So how can we trust a site that doesn't distinguish friend from "foe?"

This is where Student Government Organization (SGO) comes in.

Our newly elected student representatives should start a NJCU specific "rate my professor." It would work just like an NJCU election: students come in, show their ID, have their class information ready, and fill out an anonymous form rating the class.

Setting and implementing this system would not only benefit students now, but students in the future, long after we graduate. Or SGO could go back to doing the same thing they do every

year, with the same events (they're all pretty much Meet the Greeks), and the same useless trips.

What's stopping them?

This form of accountability would be a great service to the NJCU student community, better than any Club Day or Meet the Greeks event. Our SGO has been on a downward spiral, there seems to be more parties and rendezvous than anything educational.

This isn't a new concept or idea, other schools do the same. The truth of the matter is, our student evaluations don't matter.

Tenured professors tell us that the forms are anonymous. What they don't tell us is that the professors themselves are the only ones who look at it – that's right – they look at it. Adjuncts and tenure track professors have their evaluations go to the department chairs and themselves.

Students aren't allowed to view the evaluations when considering future classes.

So if this is correct, we have no way of knowing who is a good professor and who is a rotten one. **The professors know, the department chairs know, but students, who do actually need to know, don't.**

SGO needs to step up to the plate of responsibility and stand up for students. They've become the pushovers and scapegoats for both the administration and teacher's union.



Photo by Sean Rammarian
Monir Khilla

Is sex worth waiting for?

By Ally

Meeting someone new is always exciting especially if you're into them. You talk on the phone, text each other through the day, go on dates, and have the best conversations. Then you reach that point where the conversations take a turn to the wild side. Flirting comes into play eventually this leads to sex. Now, the question people often wonder is how long should you wait to have sex in a new relationship?

According to society, marrying a woman who is a virgin is ideal; once married, sexy time can finally be embarked upon. What is the real reason behind waiting till you're married? Is it because you want to stay pure in the eyes of [insert your belief here] or because you don't want to be seen as damaged goods? Be careful here. This situation can be seen as a double edged sword. "Couples who put off having sex for too long could be in for a huge disappointment," says Vanessa Burton of Askmen.com, a men's website. You may find you are not compatible with each other in sex. Sure, you may have great, deep conversations, but you can marry someone to only find that sex is just awkward.

Most people (ladies, I'm talking to you) can feel a little uncomfortable taking it all off. If you have little insecurities you may want to take it slow until you are fully comfortable with the person to bare it all. "Perhaps that's why some people use their comfort level with being naked as a way gauge if they're ready to go all the way," says Sari Locker of Match.com, a dating website. If you aren't comfortable with the person to drop trousers maybe it's



123RF.com

too soon to have sex.

If you have waited a couple of months before having sex this can be seen as a best case scenario. "This is probably the greatest amount of time to wait because you get to know each other enough to realize whether or not there's long term compatibility," says Burton. However, be advised, some men and even some women may take this as a brush off. In other words, you may become friendzoned. Make sure that window of communication is always open so neither of you miss the signals. If you find yourself friendzoned, prepare to build your nest because you are not leaving that place any time soon. Speaking from experience, if you're into the person, let them know!

After a few dates (about three or so) if you end up sleeping together it may be obvious it's about lust. Key word: it "may".

It all depends on how you have been spending your time together. Askmen.com explains if all you have done are movies and loud dance clubs then you haven't had enough time to get to know each other but if you two have been holding an innumerable amount of conversation, there may be hope.

To be honest, there really isn't a time period where you should have sex with someone new. Just be mature and smart about it. If you are looking for a long term relationship (if you're reading this then you probably are) then take your time and be certain on your emotions. Put your hormones on hold, get to know the person on a personal level. Every situation is different, when you're ready, you'll know. Worse comes to worse, if you're looking for a quick fix then get in, get off, get out, but use a condom or just beat it.

'An artist's walk through the city'

NJCU is pleased to announce "Le Flaneur; an artist's walk through the city", by BFA graduate Mollie Thonneson. "Le Flaneur" will be showing at the schools Visual Arts Gallery, May 7-May 11. In her new work, Thonneson has painted a series of carefully edited versions of the urban landscape in and around Jersey City.

The nine oil paintings on view, five on canvas and four on paper, follow the artist's gaze from treetops to sidewalks as she explores the city. Her images range from botanical to statuary and complexity is their unifying feature.

Thonneson paints from her own photographs, preferring the quiet and solitude that working in her studio provides. She considers her paintings a way to emotionally process her surroundings as well as a way of escaping

from them.

Thonneson currently lives and works in Jersey City. She moved from Southern California to the East coast in 2007. Thonneson has lived all over the globe including Iran, Japan, and Hong Kong. Her work has been shown nationally and internationally.



Courtesy of Mollie Thonneson

Front Yard Storage; a Landscape of Ladies, 2011, oil on canvas, by Mollie Thonneson.

Le Flaneur is Thonneson's first exhibit in the New York City metropolitan area. An artist's reception will be held on May 7 from 4:30 to 7:30.

For more information please contact Mollie Thonneson at: mthonneson@gmail.com or call at 201.938.0686.



Ally

OPINION & ADVICE



What to do for an Interview: Before and After

By Nachalie Rodriguez

The month of May symbolizes renewal and birth, but for many graduating college seniors it means the start to a new beginning. Planning your life after college is a very crucial time period because now you're about to face the real world. The next few months will be extremely competitive while on the hunt to land your dream job, but keep in mind that being a strong candidate takes the right preparation.

Before you begin your job search, make a list of your strengths weaknesses, goals and skills. "Take the time to prepare properly. Take the time to clearly decide what kind of job/career you are looking for. Next take the time to build a resume that clearly presents who you are,

what you know, what skills you have and what you have done in a way that clearly support your objective," says Mike Moriarty, Associate Director of NJCU's Academic Career Planning and Placement.

Take advantage of all the resources that your school offers or anything that will be beneficial for future interviews. "The soon to be graduate should come to our office and sign up for the perfect interview, where you can be videotaped on a mock interview. This system will also allow you to go back and revise your answers and it will also give you tips," says Juan Arroyo, Assistant Director from the Academic Career Planning and Placement. Lastly, you want to make sure that your Facebook is set to private and that you do not have any obscene images that will alarm

employers.

When you get a call for an interview make sure to do your homework! You'd be surprised as to how many interviewees do not research the company or organization that called them. Researching will allow you to come up with questions or any concerns that relate to the position you applied for. These questions will let the employer know how interested you are and that you actually took the time to familiarize yourself with their operation. Moriarty suggests to "Ask questions about the responsibilities of the job, what is the one thing that the employer would most want his new employee to excel at in the job. Ask about the hiring process. Will there be a second interview? Will the position be filled immediately? Don't just focus on what the company

can do for you, but also focus on what you can do for the company! This will also cause you to make a lasting impression, because most people make the interview about themselves and not the company."

It's important to follow up any interview you've had by giving a call back or sending a thank you e-mail or note. Try to get this done within 24 hours of an interview because remember you are not the only one! The purpose is to make sure you stand out and show gratitude for being given



Nachalie Rodriguez

the opportunity to meet with the employer. The thank you e-mail/note should begin by expressing your thanks, day and position you interviewed for. Remember to be concise. Then tell them why you are a good candidate and include any additional information you forgot to mention. Finally express your thanks one last

time and add a contact number may they need to contact you. These tips will not only help you stand out but it will give you the ability to have things go smoother for the next interview.

Backwards thinking of fundamentalist Christians

By Armando Sultan

"God hates Fags," and "the twin towers happened because of the gays," have been rhetoric said by some Christians to approve of their obvious disdain towards them. While the mentioned examples are extreme, they accurately reflect the notions of many fundamentalist Christians. This subject has defined Christians in general as being either "true" Christians, or heathens that stand for gay marriage, which is an "abomination" to the church and, ultimately, God.

I propose we take a deeper look into the good book that we hold so dear and analyze if this is the case or not. Taking this subject from a biblical standpoint, we can take some of these acclaimed passages at face value, but since we will pretend to be rational and intelligent Christians, we'll dig deeper. A general misconception lies in a few passages that most Christians will look to for validation against homosexuality.

For the sake of saving time, we'll stick to the relevant words within the New Testament. The term "homosexual" wasn't even used until 1868, so we can safely assume that this word was used to replace other words in Greek. The two words are *malakos* and *arsenokoitai*, both of which that

have different translations than most think. *Malakos* literally translates to the word "soft," which I know what you are thinking, Gay equals soft. However in the Greek text it actually refers to being passive when there is an injustice being done in front of you.

Arsenokoitai translates to "man-bed," again not exactly what you think it means, in the Greek text it actually refers to exploitive sexual nature (and not homosexual sex).

In terms of medical perspective, both American Psychology Association and World Health Organization agree that homosexuality is natural. Not to mention the fact that the APA deemed reparative, or conversion of sexuality, to be mentally destructive and most often than not, lead to suicide.

I am not suggesting you take my word for it, do your own research. However, there is something that does not need research. The concept of love and acceptance is one message that cannot be overlooked.

The words "counter-cultural" gets tossed around often within Christian circles. Yet, here we stand doing exactly what we've been preaching against. The bigotry has been exposed, its time for us to finally take an embrace action rather than the oppressive one.



Armando Sultan

Oh no, he didn't just say that!?

The Gothic Times Staff's funny, silly, and inspirational quotes from this academic year that have been taken out of context.

English professor awarded \$25,000 grant (Page 2, April 5)

"I'm just taking a leave so I can work on a novel, buy some books, a good computer, a little bit more of Chinese takeout, and take some time off," said Lin.

Budget report alerts NJCU to growing number of problems (Page 4, April 5)

"..I don't want to be [in the same category] with Kean," said Pinkas.

\$9K for Trustees' tablets? (Page 1, February 15)

"I am promoting environmentalism," said President Hernandez

Discrimination Suit Against NJCU Rejected (Page 1, November 28)

"Had there been some minority representation, I believe the process would have been fairer, because, as a colleague told me, it's tough to convince an all white jury that a Puerto Rican president discriminated against a Filipino," said Andes.



SGO members, students removed from India discussion and vote Move may have broken law, official says (Page 1, March 7)

"We weren't trying to break the law," [Said Dean of Students Lyn Hamlin]

Time as a Constant Uncertainty (Page 5, October 8)

"This stick is nothing more than a stick. I don't see how it could relate to time." [said Mario Medina]

Urban Lenses of Felix Rodriguez (Page 1, January 19)

"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. "[said Felix Rodriguez]

OPINION & ADVICE

My Dreams Come True

By Ruth Palpan

When I was a young girl living in Peru, my father always had an influence on my education. My father was a very successful professor, acquiring five different degrees throughout his lifetime. At a young age, I developed a similar dream to my father's but sadly my life had other plans. My mother was also a huge inspiration to approaching my goals. Whenever I struggled, she always pushed me forward.



Photo courtesy of Ruth Palpan
Ruth Palpan

I received my first bachelor's degree in elementary education in 1984 and, this coming May 2012, I will earn my second B.A. in Spanish. The young girl in Peru had no idea it would take about 28 years just to get from my first degree to my second. Under tremendous circumstances, my life took a different journey, yet I always thought positive, never giving up.

My first obstacles came when I immigrated to the United States in 1987. The difficulties arose in trying to understand and adapt to the language and the cultural. However, I was determined to learn this new language; I got up every morning at 5 a.m. and learned five new words of the English language.

I struggled to learn the language but I eventually taught myself a good amount of the English language. The difficulty in the language was primarily what had a strayed me from pursuing my education because I intended on receiving my education here in the U.S. instead of my home country Peru.

Graduating at this age has been quite difficult as well; I still do not know how my father did it. I would not have graduated if I had not studied endless hours and lost sleep over presentation and papers; I had to sacrifice most of my time so that I had enough time to understand the material especially since I was still learning English; the grades I earn were definitely more of achievements than rewards.

However, all my hard work and determination will pay off this May. My life is not unique by any means. I know that there are many individuals, young and old, that have had trouble with school and had to take some time off.

To them, as well as new students, who continue their education, I encourage you to pursue and work hard towards your dreams and your goals. I know that obstacle exist, yet they can be overcome, just as I have overcome mine.

Open House closes its doors on clubs, showcases Greeks instead

By Monir Khilla

We don't know who it is, but apparently someone in the NJCU Admissions Department decided that the best way to show off the school during the April 21st Open House was to throw all the clubs into the corner. This genius also decided that NJCU's main showcase should be our Greek Organizations.

The first thing incoming students and parents saw when they came into GSUB was a long slew of Greek Organizations. There was nothing showcasing our honor societies, our other clubs, or our financial aid office – you know, the things parents actually want to see when they come into an institution of higher education. They even gave the “best spot” to a Greek Organization and not some sort of help desk.

Now, with all due respect, our Admissions department works hard and has a dedicated staff who are constantly trying to recruit new students. But they're stupid. We don't know what image NJCU is trying to send to parents and new students, but it may have gone something like this: “Hey, we're (not) a party school, but check out our Greeks.”

The setup was absolutely disrespectful to all the hard working clubs and organizations on campus. They were pushed into the ends of the hallway, left alone in their empty tables of obscurity. Some felt neglected, bored, and unimportant. NJCU validated those feelings with a slap on the face added to it. Our academic departments and other departments were stuffed into the multipurpose room like sardines. Way to fail, NJCU.

Our spineless SGO didn't stand up for these clubs and organizations, despite claiming to “represent” them. As a matter of fact, half of them are

am part of a Greek Organization and understand that Greeks do represent a number of students on campus; they have every right to have their own event. However, not every event is a Greek event. During “Club” Day, the legitimate clubs were pushed up against the wall, as Greeks danced in victory in front of the DJ stand. The Spring Festival turned into another outdoor Meet the Greeks, with all the clubs being pushed in front of traffic on Audubon avenue. Open House was no exception.

Greeks have no right to be at “Club” Day – they're not even part of the SGO Council. Furthermore, Clubs aren't allowed at Meet the Greeks, so why are Greeks allowed at their events? SGO continues to waste money by catering to the needs of Greeks and not the clubs. They subject all the clubs on council to their finance meetings, president's meetings, and their boring council meetings. They then immediately turn around and ignore their requests for co-sponsorship, cut funding from the clubs, and lie to them about monetary transactions. When the clubs show up to the events they pay for, they find their tables facing the corners and their spots taken by uninvited Greeks.

What Greeks, SGO, and NJCU need to do is learn to respect our clubs and organizations. Showcase them when they need to be showcased. Let them have their events without Greek interference.

There is plenty of blame to go around for the disrespect shown to the clubs and organizations: the school, SGO, and Greeks are all at fault.

members of Greek organizations and enjoyed a front row table next to their friends. There is plenty of blame to go around for the disrespect shown to the clubs and organizations: the school, SGO, and Greeks are all at fault.

What's sadder is the fact that this was expected. Every “Club” Day - and I use that title loosely- every Spring Festival, and every Open House ends up almost exactly the same. They all turn into “Meet the Greeks.”

Now, don't get me wrong, I

Just Ask Mr. B...

By Barry Broxton

Mr. Broxton is a counselor within the Opportunity Scholarship Program at NJCU. He has a MPA degree from New York University and a M.A. degree from Montclair State University. Mr. Broxton has opened his ears to the students at NJCU.

Student Question: I plan to pursue Biology, but I do not like the major classes that I am taking and I am not sure if I want a career related to Biology.

Answer: Choosing a major as well as planning for a career can be stressful. However, this is a natural process as you navigate throughout your college career. Most college students must consider that just as our personalities are individualized and unique; this also applies to your career of choice.

Luckily for you NJCU has a variety of on campus support services that can also assist you while making one of the most important decisions of your life; choosing a major that will prepare you for a career.

The NJCU Academic Career Planning and Placement Department located in Vodra Hall,

Rm 101 is a great start to gain assistance regarding your vocational goals. Services are provided such as internship opportunities, self assessments, mock interviews and resume development. Every year thousands of students graduate from colleges/universities within the United States as well as abroad. These number of graduates are

applying for professional positions such as yourself.

...My word of advice to you is to take advantage of the self-assessments, gain internship experience and speak to your academic advisor, counselor, your peers, family, friends and please visit NJCU's Career Planning and Placement Department.



Photo courtesy of Barry Broxton

Barry Broxton



Come Support NJCU's Psychology Society on Their Walk for Mental Illness Awareness!

When: Saturday, May 12th, 2012

Where: South Street Seaport

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Team Webpage: www.nami.org



Walk with Us or Support One of Our Walkers by Sponsoring Them at Our Team Page!

For further information contact **Denisse Quinteros**, Psychology Society President at: dquinteros@njcu.edu (njcu mails only)

SPORTS

3 TIMES THE ATHLETE

Gabrielle Rivera

By Alvert Hernandez

Passionate, Willing, Dedicated, Hard-working, and Competitive are some of the words Gabrielle Rivera, 21, Biology major, Junior, from Teaneck describes herself as.

Starting her collegiate career at Caldwell College in 2009-2010, Gabrielle played limited minutes for the Cougars. She transferred to NJCU the following year and now is a three-sport athlete here at NJCU, playing basketball, softball, and cross country with an impressive resume from high school.

Mrs. Rivera was a three-sport athlete in high school as well, playing basketball, softball and volleyball in St. Josephs of the Palisades High School in West New York, NJ. She finished her impeccable high school career as a 1,000 point scorer along with first team all Hudson County honors in her senior season in basketball and volleyball. She wasn't only an accomplished athlete but an accomplished student. She finished with a 3.2 GPA and was active member in



NJCU Sports Information
Gabrielle Rivera

"When I'm in season it keeps me focused on my academics. For each sport we need a certain GPA, and it is a great stress reliever."

her high school student council.

"I'm used to all this. I just am used to being busy. I like that feeling, it helps make connections and meet great people" said Gabrielle. Her interest in sports sprung from her father and older brother who always pushed her. "I have an older brother and my dad raised me on the field and on

the court my whole life. I grew to love sports." Gabrielle feels as her participation in all these sports actually helps her academics instead of hindering them. "When I'm in season it keeps me focused on my academics. For each sport we need a certain GPA, and it is a great stress reliever."

Her father has been very influential in what she wants to become in the future, which is why she is considering sports medicine. "My dad always pushed me to sports. I want to study medicine and I like to help people. I enjoy making others feel better because I like it when people make me feel good." Since basketball season is over she is now very focused on her softball season, she has 6 runs in 46 at bats and started 15 of the 17 games for the

lady knights this season.

As a junior she only has one more year left and would like to make it worthwhile. "I would definitely like to make all NJAC for basketball before I leave. I would like to leave some type of impact with the people I have met here."

25-0!!!

An in-depth look at the Men's Volleyball teams' success all-time against Polytechnic Institute of NYU

By Edgar Rivas, Jr.

It's something you don't hear about often in NJCU Athletics – one of our teams is unbeaten all-time against an opponent. On March 4, the Men's Volleyball team defeated Polytechnic Institute of NYU and improved to 25-0 all-time against them. They won all three games: 25-10, 25-16, 25-17.

The Gothic Knights and NYU-Poly have played against each other over the years, with the Fighting Blue Jays appearing on the schedule in seven of the past eight seasons.

Polytechnic Institute of NYU is in its first season in the Skyline Conference, head coached by Kevin Edwards, his first year at the helm. They ended the season on a five-game winning streak and a .500 record of 14-14, their best since the program's beginning. Located in Brooklyn, NY, NYU-Poly athletics began in 1904.

Head coach Kevin Rodgers

can remember playing against NYU-Poly during his playing days for the Gothic Knights as an outside/middle hitter (2006-09).

"During my years, we've played them a minimum of once a year," said Rodgers. "We've always had that extra

"It is a big deal in a sense because it shows our consistency,"

Kevin Rodgers

edge over them."

Outside Hitter Kenny Lisk, 21, Chemistry/Secondary Education, from Old Bridge has experience facing NYU-Poly in three of his four years (2009, 2010, and 2012).

"[The Gothic Knights] have been on a higher level than [NYU-Poly]," said Lisk.

Setter/Opposite Justin Beaumont, 24, Criminal Justice and Sociology minor, from Bayonne also has experience

facing NYU-Poly. He played them in 2008, 2009, and 2012.

"They're relatively a new program [and] don't have as much experience as NJCU does," said Beaumont.

The key factors to the Gothic Knights' success against the Fighting Blue Jays over the years have been tradition and talent.

"[We've always had a] different tradition [than them]," said Rodgers. "They don't have the same talent as we do."

"Volleyball isn't important to them as it is to us," said Lisk. "They're volleyball program is still growing."

"We've beaten them with talent and experience," said Beaumont.

Dominance in NJCU Athletics is a big thing.

"It's kind of like saying 'Alright, we have never lost to them, so I don't want to lose,'" said Lisk.

"It is a big deal in a sense because it shows our consistency," said Rodgers.



NJCU Sports Information

Skyline Conf. Rookie of the Year Besmir Arslani

A Rookie Sensation

By Edgar Rivas, Jr.

He was named Skyline Conference Rookie of the Week 7 times, NJCU Male Athlete of the Week (01/30/2012), Skyline Conference Honor Roll (02/16/2012), and First-team All-Skyline Conference. Besmir Arslani, 19, Health Sciences, from Wayne couldn't have a better rookie season.

"It wasn't as surprising as I thought it would be but it was definitely a good individual award that I [received]," said Arslani.

Kenny Lisk, 21, Chemistry and Secondary Education, from Old Bridge had a feeling Arslani was going to earn the honor.

"He was winning Rookie of the Week pretty much every week of the season. So it was a no-brainer," said Lisk. "I'm happy for him."

The 6-2, 165 lb. "Bez" was named 2012 Skyline Conference Rookie of the Year.

The NJCU Men's Volleyball team ended their season with a 14-17 record and lost in the 1st Round of the Skyline Conference Tournament to eventual runner-up Ramapo 19-25, 25-19, 25-21, 10-25, 11-15.

"I was really hoping that we could pull off the upset," said head coach Kevin Rodgers. "We've prepared all week for them and we did a lot of work."

"It was a very hard-fought 5-game match. It could have gone either way," said Lisk. "Obviously it would have been good if we pulled out the victory, but it was a good way to go out this season."

Despite the disappointing end, this season has been a success for Arslani. His stats are impressive:

Sets played: 108
Kills per set: 4.00
Assists per set: 0.15
Service aces per set: 0.44
Digs per set: 2.05
Blocks per set: 0.51
Points per set: 4.72

"He did really well," said Rodgers. "It just shows how good of a player he can be and he's only a freshman. He one of our most outstanding student/athletes."

Bez gives credit to his teammates.

"My main goal [this season] was to do what "Bez" knows how to do and play with the team," said Arslani. "If I would have done what "Bez" knows how to do and play without my team, I would have never been [Skyline Conference] Rookie of the Year."

Now that his rookie season has come to an amazing end, next season is something to look out for as he will play his second season with the Gothic Knights. What will he give for an encore?

"He has a great future ahead of him," said Lisk.



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