

# THE GOTHIC TIMES

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## Increase in class sizes raises concern among students, faculty

By Monir Khilla  
(Additional reporting by  
Edwin Escorelo)

Students and faculty were surprised, even angry, with a new class cap policy that was implemented with little consultation.

The policy increased class sizes, and most classes that did not meet the minimum cap were cancelled. Classes now need 12 students in order to proceed; the previous cap only required 10 students.

NJCU dropped classes that students were registered for; some received no notification. The cancellation made some students ineligible for government aid; this forced them to rush to the Registrar, Bursar, and Financial Aid office to try adding a class.

Many faculty members were also livid with the implementations, as they were not consulted and had their classes dropped.

In an e-mail interview with Joanne Bruno, Vice President of Academic Affairs, she said the guidelines “will support effective utilization of University Resources. In addition, careful,



Photo by Dakota Santiago

New class caps had some students rushing to add classes and fix Financial Aid.

thoughtful planning of our course offerings is needed in order for classes to be sequenced for timely degree completion and scheduled at times that is convenient for students.”

Kenza Hutchines, 24, History,

from Jersey City, said “I don’t really like that. I was registered for a class in sports.”

Hutchines was really looking forward to the class and didn’t want it to be cancelled.

“They need to consider the stu-

dent’s excitement,” she said.

Despite speculation that there would be an increase to fifteen in the Spring semester, Bruno said the rumors were not true.

“I do not anticipate increasing the guidelines for Spring 2013

and will continue to use the guideline of a minimum of 12 students enrolled in lecture courses. We will use the Fall and Spring semesters to assess the outcomes of that change,” said Bruno.

Some classes that do not meet the enrollment standard would be evaluated individually, according to Bruno.

“For those disciplines with a smaller number of majors, some lecture classes may run with enrollment below the guidelines in the short-term, but we will also be exploring ways to recruit more students into those majors as well as reviewing the scheduling and frequency of offering courses to better support timely degree completion”

John Arcos, 22, Music Education and Performance major from Bayonne sees the cuts “as a problem.”

Arcos prefers smaller classes because it gives “an opportunity for one-on-one. The professor can engage more with the student.”

Bruno pointed out that NJCU has one of the lowest student to

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### Who are they?

#### Tau Kappa Epsilon, Inc. ΤΚΕ

The world’s largest social fraternity. Alumni include former President Ronald Reagan and MVP Superbowl Winner Aaron Rogers.

#### Lambda Tau Omega Sorority, Inc. ΛΤΩ

Reflects diversity; are the myriad of ethnic, political and religious backgrounds. With the belief in mind that education equals women’s empowerment.

#### The Iota Phi Theta ΙΦΘ

The nation’s fifth largest, predominately African-American social service fraternity.

#### Psi Sigma Phi ΨΣΦ

The first fraternity in the United States founded under the ideal of multiculturalism, was founded December 12, 1990 at Montclair State University and New Jersey City University

#### Alpha Phi Omega ΑΦΩ

A coeducational national service organization that provides it members the chance to develop leadership skills through service projects on their campus, in their community, and across the nation. Their primary focus is to make the world a better place.

## Meet The Greeks draws biggest turnout in years

By Michael James de los Santos

On Thursday, October 11, 2012 over 400 Greek brothers, sisters, alumni, and students gathered from across the country to fill New Jersey City University’s Student Multi-Purpose room for the most anticipated student event of the semester.

“Everyone looks forward to Meet the Greeks. Those are the student’s that show face on campus the most.” said Daniel Joseph, 22, Psychology, from Jersey City.

Meet the Greeks is an event every semester where Sororities and Fraternities unite to generate the excitement of “rushing,” a term coined on the act of joining a Greek organization. Each organization has its own history, values, and traditions.

This year the Greek Senate and Student Government Organization agreed to co-sponsor the event to alleviate cost of security and entertainment. The Greek Senate and Greek Organization’s themselves do not receive funds from the school.

Andray Tandacharry, NJCU Alumni and Alpha Phi Omega said that he “Saw that there is some attempt at unity. Meet the Greeks should be just that, a place where anyone who is interested in Greek life should [come to] get information.”

However, Tandacharry thinks



Photo courtesy of Michael James de los Santos

Students dance and step as onlookers watch.

that “For that to work though I think the stepping should be separated to a different time or just made to be a stepping event on its own.”

The music was provided by DJ Akademiks who says, “I really enjoyed the Meet the Greeks event at NJCU. I attended last year Meet the Greek event and was honored enough to have the opportunity to DJ this years and it was a very electric atmosphere.”

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## NEWS

## LSU mourns loss of Javier 'Bam Bam' Hernandez

By Kaela Bazard and  
Monir Khilla

Music, pictures, and singing; this wasn't an on-campus party or Student Government Organization event, but a candlelight memorial service for Javier "Bam Bam" Hernandez, a fallen Founding Brother of the Areyto chapter of Lambda Sigma Upsilon (LSU) fraternity.

Hernandez passed away a week prior on September 17 in a tragic car accident in Tallahassee, Florida at the age of 38.

The hour long September 24 memorial was held on the steps of the Frank J. Guarini Library where roughly 100 students, alumni, staff, and friends gathered around Hernandez's picture and honored his life.

"He was one that was giving to everybody," said Richard Vaca, an NJCU Alumni and fellow Founding Brother at the memorial service. "You did not need to be a brother for him to basically give you a warm welcome and a helping hand"

Hernandez's sense of humor was one of a "Typical Puerto Rican and Dominican," smiled John Padilla an NJCU Alumni.

"He said everything a Puerto Rican said and everything a Dominican said. He complimented both Dominicans and Puerto Ricans very well," said Padilla.

Padilla played an integral role and helped with the establishing of the LSU fraternity at NJCU. "I was his Cacique," said Padilla. Cacique is the Spanish and Taino word for chieftain. The cultural identity symbol of the LSU fraternity is the Taino Indian.

Hernandez was a "Great guy, biggest guy you'll ever see, but he was very humble," said Padilla.

A week after Hernandez's passing; his fellow line brothers called and used social media to spread the word

"The undergrads took leadership and went to the school and got Alumni involved," said Padilla. They've been "Nothing but extremely helpful."

Padilla noticed that the memorial had reunited him with "Brothers from all different decades, some I haven't seen in years."

The memorial began with a message from John Melendez, Vice President of Student Affairs. Melendez was the first advisor to the chapter.

"I'm happy to be here to represent the University and to thank



Photo Courtesy of Lambda Sigma Upsilon

Students, faculty, and alumni hold a candlelight vigil for Javier "Bam Bam" Hernandez.

everyone here who supported each other during this experience. I met Javier years ago, I remember him as everyone described, 'a gentle giant,'" said Melendez after the memorial.

Hernandez was very dedicated to founding the Areyto chapter of LSU.

"He played a large role in the development of the fraternity," said Vaca. "He initiated a lot of communication between the student body and the administration to get the chapter recognized. He was one of the liaisons between the administration and the fraternity. He started it [the chapter] when he was a sophomore"

Teofilo "Teddy" Moreno, NJCU Alumni and Founding

Brother, remembered Hernandez as, "Humble, simplistic, very reliable, [and] had a big heart."

Unfortunately Hernandez had to leave NJCU as a Junior because, "His parents passed away. He was the older brother, so he had to take care of his family," said Moreno.

Many of the younger members never got the chance to meet Hernandez, but still felt his impact on the chapter.

"I heard a lot about him, but didn't get to meet him" said George Garcia, 21, National Security major, from Jersey City.

Garcia is the current president of the Areyto chapter of LSU at NJCU.

"Lots of people say my person-

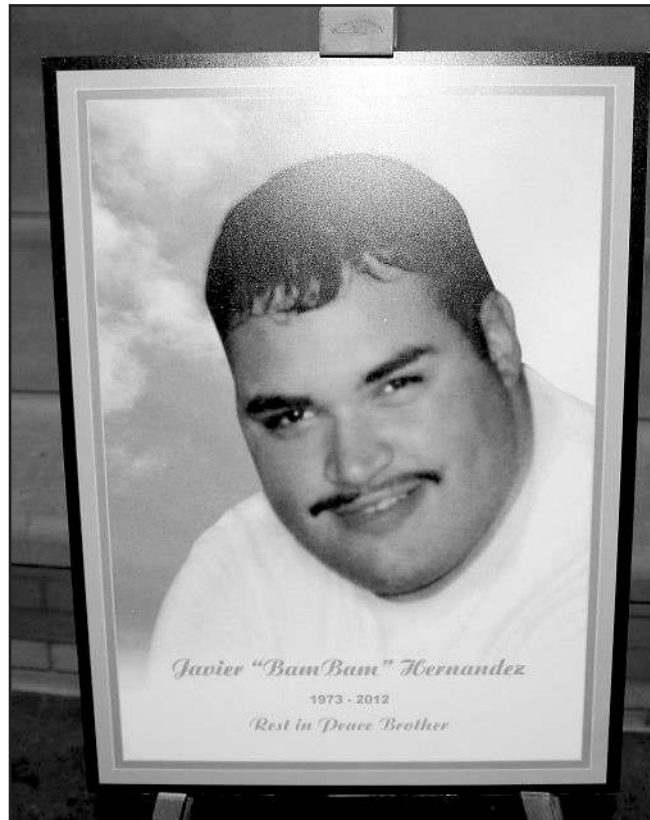


Photo Courtesy of Lambda Sigma Upsilon

Javier "Bam Bam" Hernandez

ality resembles him," Garcia said.

Garcia said he loved the candlelight vigil because he "Got an insight on who he was; his personality, how he treated brothers and sister, his loyalty and honesty to the fraternity."

Manuel Castaneda, a Rutgers Alumni who has known Hernandez for almost 20 years, sang "Dust in the Wind," originally by

Kansas.

"I think the song represented the way he passed, one minute we're here, one minute we're not," said Castaneda.

Raymond Dela-Torre, the national president of LSU, was also in attendance and was most touched by Castaneda's rendition.

"I'm sure his face would have been red to have a brother sing a song about him," said Dela-Torre.

Jalynne Jordan, 20, Undecided, Jersey City and a member of LSU's sister sorority, Mu Sigma Upsilon (MSU), personally didn't know Hernandez, "But just seeing the connection made me happy because we are part of something where we are all really together and we can all come together to do something meaningful."

Victor Breton, 20, Fire Science major, Perth Amboy thought the turnout was "beautiful" and that they raised \$6,000 for Hernandez's siblings.

After Hernandez's father passed away, "Then his mom passed away years later, so the money would help out his three siblings," said Breton

Breton said that, "I just wanted to say that he was a big impact on me. I never met him, but he was a part of my fraternity. He left a big impact on the people that impacted me. If it wasn't for him I wouldn't be wearing these letters."



Photo Courtesy of Lambda Sigma Upsilon

Manuel Castaneda singing "Dust in the Wind," by Kansas.

Check out our **website**

**gothictimes.net**

NEWS

# Gourmet Dining: The New Vodra Cafeteria

By Matthew Smith and Hannah Botjer

On September 30 the Vodra Cafeteria opened to the public. The cafeteria has gone through many changes throughout the summer, primarily from a standard cafeteria to an all-you-can-eat buffet.

This new continuous dining plan offers more stations available to guests to be able to mix and match meals. With this new dining plan students will be allowed to come as they please, eliminating the lines, due largely to the fact that students can make their own meals. The process allows the cafeteria to operate runs more efficiently, this allows for better dining quality and a lighter dining atmosphere.

Along with the wonderful ideas this change brings it also brings many downsides. One such downfall to this new cafeteria is the hours of operation. The new hours are eight to eight on the weekdays and eight to six thirty on the weekend. These hour changes may cause an issue for night students.



Photo by Dakota Santiago

The new buffet-style Vodra Hall offers different stations for different eaters.

"It's just not unlimited to [commuters]." Explained Julie Aiello, Director of Gourmet Dining at NJCU.

Because of the issues this poses with the night students the way Gourmet Dining chose to accommodate the students was by providing a take away entrée. This plan is in effect between 5PM-8PM. Dorm Students will

be provided with one swipe during those hours and one take away dish. However this limits the student to the amount of food they can actually eat during this time.

With this unlimited dining program students will now be able to have unlimited swipes. This is a blessing for residents who would run out of their meal plan

in the GSUB cafeteria. Now residents won't be concerned with how to find food if their card runs out.

Resident students could swipe for guests and pay for their food, in this new cafeteria format, resident students will only have five guest passes.

"We've come up with a plan we've done at our other schools

VODRA DINING HALL HOURS OF OPERATION & MEAL TIMES	
Breakfast - 7:30am - 10am	Casual Meal Rate - \$6.25
Make Your Own stations open at 10am (Wok Bar, Pasta Bar, Deli, Panini, Salad Bar)	
Lunch - 11:30am - 1:30pm	Casual Meal Rate - \$9.25
Dinner - 5pm - 8pm	Casual Meal Rate - \$10.95
Saturday Brunch - 10am-1:30pm	
Saturday Dinner - 4:30pm - 6:30pm	
Sunday Brunch - 11am - 1:30pm	
Sunday Dinner - 5:00pm - 7:30pm	

which is a resident focused plan. We felt this is what the school was looking for, a resident focused plan that gave the resident population a chance to grow," said Aiello.

The new Vodra cafeteria offers new options to resident students. Gourmet dining is looking forward to seeing all the residents and listening to any requests you might have about this new cafeteria.

## Food Choices for the Concerned Eater

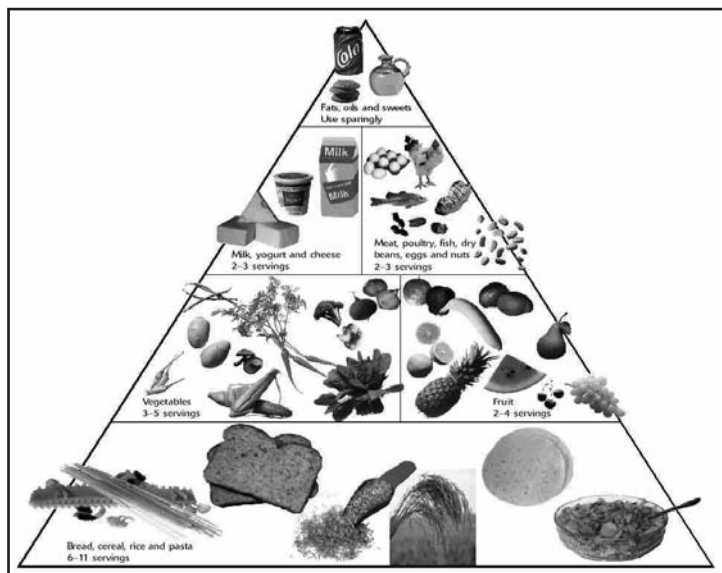
By Diane DeBiase

Picture this: you just get out of class, you are strolling down the walkway between Karnoutsos Hall and Rossey and you begin to hear your stomach rumble. Whether you live on campus or are a commuter, either way you know that you are HUNGRY. Now here comes the hard part, where should you go to satisfy your growling tummy? There are the food trucks on Audubon Avenue and Kennedy Boulevard, or the Starbucks in the Professional Studies building or there is always the cafeteria in the GSUB. So I decided to investigate and see what kind of healthy, and not so healthy, food that I could find on the campus of NJCU.

We all want to try and eat healthier; however most of us are on a tight budget. So yes, the food trucks on Kennedy Blvd and Audubon Avenue are convenient and have cheap food, but are they worth it? After scanning the menu on the side of the truck, the only healthy items are a few salads and a handful of wraps.

The salads on the food truck range from \$7.95 to \$8.95. The wraps are approximately \$7.95 for most on the menu. There are also other items on the menu that are popular but aren't exactly healthy, such as the cheeseburger and cheesesteak. While the food may not be your healthiest choice, the truck has been a staple at NJCU for years and has a great reputation for quality food.

Next on my trek I stopped into the Professional Studies building and wanted to see what Starbucks had to offer. So I checked out the food offerings myself and found a few healthy



www.nal.usda.gov

The Pyramid calls for eating a variety of foods to get the nutrients you need and at the same time the right amount of calories to maintain healthy weight.

choices. I'm not sure someone would want to grab their dinner here, but breakfast, lunch or a quick snack would be fine. Here there was a yogurt parfait for \$3.60, Greek yogurt for \$2.99, fresh fruit such as bananas and apples and Kashi bars. They also have a variety of teas, coffees and drinks. In the front cooler they also had small salads that were already made and small containers of fruit. The food here seems fresh and healthy, as long as you don't overdo it on the muffins and pastries that they also carry.

My final stop was the school cafeteria in the GSUB. In September of 2011, Gourmet Dining LLC started running our school cafeteria, and the changes that have been made are definitely a step in the right direction. When I asked to speak with a manager to find out what kind of healthy offerings they had, I was quickly in-

troduced to Mr. Donald Bunn. Mr. Bunn, aka Malik Mohammad, is the manager of the cafeteria and took me on a tour to show me all of the new menu items. Julianne Aiello, the director of dining services, and Anthony Cinelli, the executive chef, have come together to create a menu of food that is not only health conscious but budget friendly too. "We wanted to give the students and faculty more choices, and this new menu does just that," stated Mr. Bunn.

Our first station was the salad bar. "We try to grow a lot of our produce in the garden on campus, the salad bar needs to be fresh every day," said Mr. Bunn. The prices for the salad bar range from \$5.85 to \$6.50 or you can pay by weight at \$.38 per ounce. When I visited the cafeteria it was in the evening and the salad bar looked clean and fresh even at 7:00pm.



starbuck.com

Protein plate from Starbucks



nj.com

Food truck

Gourmet Dining LLC has also begun using a company called Nature Boy. Nature Boy provides the cafeteria with vegetarian options such as meals, sandwiches and wraps. These products are Halal and Kosher, high protein, low sodium, low calorie and made from organic ingredients.

Some choices in the refrigerated section include hummus, yogurt, fruit cups, sushi tuna rolls, vegetarian chicken salad and whole grain wheat bread with spicy tofu. Items like the sushi were \$8.25, however the sandwiches and wraps were all under \$6.00.

"We have something for everyone," stated Mr. Bunn. "Whether you need lactose free, gluten free or nut free, we have it all." I was astonished by the amount of drink choices there were as well. Everyone knows that you can grab a soda or iced tea anywhere, but to have freshly made smoothies,

organic fruit juices and Odwalla juices is quite surprising for a school cafeteria. Again, like all my other food stops, there are the not-so-healthy food choices too! You can get pizza, burritos, cheeseburgers and even tacos. But just know that there are also homemade soups and a full course dinner including steamed vegetables available daily.

There are also monthly events at the cafeteria, such as eating contests, Iron Chef Challenges and Biggest Loser contests. I was pleasantly surprised at what the NJCU had to offer. I was also surprised at how friendly and helpful Mr. Bunn was. He took his time and explained everything to me.

If it was me trying to decide where to eat, I would definitely choose the cafeteria. The food choices are amazing, and the prices were about the same, if not better, than the other food spots. Just the fact that you know the food is made daily and made with fresh ingredients, makes you feel more comfortable about eating it. I am sure everyone has their days when they want to get something quick off the food truck. However I highly recommend trying out the improved cafeteria in the GSUB. I think you will be just as impressed as I was!

Ms. Aiello works hand-in-hand with a registered dietician to make sure that the food meets certain criteria and isn't high in calories, fat and/or sodium. The dietician helps develop the menu and is available to talk with the students. The dietician also helps students pick out foods that best fit your diet. The best part is it is free of charge!

## NEWS

# From Beijing with love

By Lewis Seagull



Lewis Seagull

**B**ond dials room service in Istanbul: "Breakfast for one at nine please: Green figs, yoghurt, coffee, very black." After my short flight from La Guardia, as I walk through Detroit Airport, preparing for my departure to China, I am James Bond—comfortable in any culture.

Unfortunately, mirrors interrupt.

I return to the image in my mind, rejuvenated by the prospect of China, which has been, for some time, on my reverse bucket list—things I know I will never do before I die. The first: play fullback for the United States Olympic Soccer Team—a dream that died around 1971. Sleep with a Playboy Bunny—also 1971; become President of the United States—1980; Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States—1991. In fairness to me, I have completed the New York City Marathon, and eaten croissants for breakfast in Paris, although I did not think that at age sixteen it would be for the last time.

I am approaching the age at which Ernest Hemingway died. Sean Connery is still going strong.

*The North Pole!* There it is: 90 degrees north latitude, heading north and suddenly, heading south—an unexpected, incidental reverse bucket list item. I move to the window. The midnight sun is blinding. Nothing is below but clouds and pure white. *What was I expecting—a thousand-foot flag pole?* Being here at 38,000 feet, sipping a Dewar's White Label, is fine with me—the flight attendants did not have Johnny Walker Black. *James Bond or not, screw a martini.*

Stirred, not shaken, I anticipate Siberia and then Mongolia.

*He brushes the black comma of hair from his forehead.* Three in the afternoon in New York is three in the morning in Beijing—I will not reset my watch, although someone will have to remind me what day it is. I look at the printout of the download: space age-looking taxis can take me to Peking University—Peking? Beijing? Don't ask—the Chinese themselves are not sure. Suavely, I collect my bag, cruise through immigration and walk toward ground transportation—no mirrors in the security sector of Beijing Airport. I buy a pack of Zhongnanhai cigarettes for 30 rmb—\$4.50.

I have my first blessed cigarette of the day. Wow, the Chinese smoke indoors, in public places—how refreshingly enlightened.

The web site says the cab ride should be 120 rmb—about eighteen bucks American. I am accosted by two seedy men with cigarettes dangling from their lips.

"Taxi, mister?"

*The scent and smoke and sweat are nauseating at three in the morning.*

I point to the printout with the address of my hotel on the campus of Peking University.

"How much?"

"Five hundred."

"F\*ck off."

What? Do they think I just rolled into town on a turnip truck? I am Bond, James Bond.

The men follow me. "For you, special. Two eighty."

"Get lost." I continue walking to the doors marked in English, "Ground Transportation-Taxis-Buses."

"Two fifty. You never do better."

The men have decided to stand with me in the line for taxis. The Chinese cops do not seem to mind. The men closely examine my face, wordlessly saying, "What are you, an idiot?" I am impressed that the faces say the same as they would in New York.

The taxi dispatcher is perplexed. He has a two-page list of Beijing hotels, but "Global Village at Peking University" is not on it. He is trying to usher me to a van with no light on top—a limo. I say, "No. A metered taxi." *He is not coming close to speaking English.* I point to what I want. The dispatcher turns his face slightly to the side, scrutinizing me. *That New York look again.* These people have never before met a poor, penny-pinching American. I cannot begin to explain to them that I am only a part-time professor, that my flight and hotel are being paid for by the people who have engaged me to deliver a paper on truancy among Cambodian street children, and that I have no real money.

The taxi driver who is next in line and the dispatcher are yakking at each other in Mandarin. The exchange is getting heated. Occasionally, one or both will point at me. Reluctantly, the driver places my bag in the trunk.

"Do you know how to get to Peking University," I ask. The driver wordlessly gives me a phony, New York taxi-driver smile.

As we exit the airport environs, I am craning my neck to decipher the meter. There are lots of numbers, but none of them are changing. After a kilometer—*Bond knows that he is thousands of miles away from miles*—the "11.00" becomes "11.80" and I relax, and first notice that my feet are on bare metal—no floor mats in taxis? Apparently, that is why limos command the big bucks.

I look at China through the open window of the cab. It is 3:30 in the morning. Stone abutments are on either side of the highway. I might as well be on the Grand Central Parkway in Queens, except that the driver is going around 130—maybe 80

mph. Good. *He seems confident.*

The cab exits the highway. All of the signs are in both Chinese and English, but none says, "Peking University." *He knows what he is doing—he is a cab driver.* A few twists and turns and we enter through a gate of a style that is my concept of authentic Chinese architecture. *Harvard Yard with pagodas.*

And that is how we spend the next fifteen minutes—going this way and that, and then doubling back through a lovely, deserted, middle-of-the-night Chinese college. For the *next* five minutes I begin to check out the benches that dot the park-like campus, scouting a comfortable place to sleep al fresco until dawn, should that become necessary.

My driver, an industrious, chain-smoking, balding man—*he is me had I been born on the other side of the world*—stops in front of a well-lit building. He speaks with the guard inside the door, who summons another man, who comes around a corner on the run. He senses my desperation and urgency. A few words in Mandarin with my driver, and we are off again.

My driver exits the campus on to a broad boulevard, drives a kilometer, does a neat U-turn, backtracks down the opposite side of the boulevard, enters another, more modern campus, drives for a minute or two, and then makes a left turn on to a narrow, poorly paved, improbable alley. A brick wall is on my right and dense vegetation is on my left—vines brush the windshield of the taxi. Apparently, the cabbie has had enough and is looking for a secluded place to dump my body. *So this is where I am going to die.*

The driver comes to a dead end and stops. It is here that I learn that "oy" means the same in Chinese as it does in Yiddish. *James Bond never had to deal with this sh\*t!*

We back up—perhaps twenty meters in reverse—and make another unlikely turn, this time to the right, down a brick-paved ramp to a flat place, where my driver again stops. I look out the window to my left. There is a well-lit lobby behind a revolving door, where a young man, looking for all the world like a hotel clerk, is behind a counter, checking paperwork. The meter reads "123.50." My watch reads 4:10. *Thank you, lord.*

"Good evening, Professor Seagull. We have been expecting you."

Although I have been advised not to tip taxi drivers in China, I give the little man 130 rmb. He fumbles for change, and I say, ineffectually, "Keep it." He does understand when I hold up both hands and push the air. It will not be long, I guess, before more Americans coming to Beijing will teach the taxi drivers to expect gratuities.

I bow to the driver. He seems perplexed. They bow in Japan—not in China.

*Lewis Seagull is an Adjunct Professor of English at NJCU. He teaches Business Writing.*

## So you want to be a Greek?

By Chinedum Emelumba

**A**fter a long, tedious week of school and work, students often prowling the campus in search of something fun to do. Students who dorm often look to discover the various extracurricular activities that New Jersey City University has to offer. On the other hand, commuter students have the luxury of engaging in activities off campus with family members and friends. But, the truth is there are organizations and entertaining clubs out here for everyone! With that being said, if you've ever wondered why some students proudly parade around campus in their multi-colored uniforms, dancing and stepping away, it is because they are a part of Greek Life. Dating back to the 18th century, Greek Organizations were created by a group of students who shared similar interests and objectives, which were to provide recreational activities on and off campus, and shine as professionals through leadership, scholarship and community service. Fraternities and sororities offer students of all ethnicities and culture's the chance to meet new people, and form bonds and friendship that will last a lifetime.

"I really wanted to pledge something, but I've always heard these stories about sororities, and I grew up around guys, so I really didn't get along with girls, said Rocio Mendoza, 22, sister of Mu Sigma Upsilon Sorority, Inc. Despite her apprehension, Mendoza went ahead took the step to pledge for her sorority. "I wanted to be active with community services and one of my friends who was a "sister" invited me to meet the Greeks," she added. She noted that she finally really submitted to the idea of joining a sorority, when the sisters of Mu Sigma Upsilon Sorority presented their organizations goals and objectives during Meet the Greeks. "They spoke of what they were about, which is academic excellence, to unite all women, and give back to the commu-

nity and school. I was like man this just might be for me!" she beamed.

Often time's students hesitate to pledge to Greek Organizations because of their personal reasons. This was the case with Peter Ejeh, 24, brother of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. "My cousin first talked to me about joining in 2008, but I wasn't interested," he said. But, "By Spring 2010, I was in my second semester of my junior year and I started thinking about graduation and getting a job. So, "I was looking for the proper guidance and direction," he added.

The apprehension that most students have about Greek Organizations perhaps, forms from their faulty misconceptions. Ejeh expressed that, "the biggest misconception about Greeks is that all we do is party and drink, while we are very professional; also there is a lot of community service that is involved." When asked, Mendoza stated that "although we do party because we're only human and also college students, it seems all fun and games to be a part of Greek life, but in reality it's also like having a job." But, "don't get me wrong you have fun (she laughs), it's not all business every day," she confirmed.

Greek Organizations are excellent additions to a resume, and more importantly they bring people together in awesome ways. But, there are students who still would rather engage in other organizations on campus, and that's okay! Ejeh articulated "I don't believe that being Greek is for everyone, but I believe that being active in college is vital. It makes you utilize yourself to the fullest and learn things you didn't know about yourself." In the same light, Mendoza voiced that being a part of Greek Organizations weren't a vital part of the college experience. However, she "definitely recommends it because you meet so many people and gain so much out of it. In addition, the networking and bond that you make with the administration is amazing!"

Thanks to our Cosponsors  
The NJCU Art Therapy Association presents:

## EMPTY BOWLS PROJECT



Students can participate in:



**Bowl Making Workshop**  
**October 30 9:00AM - 6:00PM**  
**MPR-C**

**Glazing Workshop**  
**November 6 9:00AM - 6:00PM**  
**MPR-A**



**DEMONSTRATIONS WILL START AT THE TOP OF EVERY HOUR !**

**GOURMET DINNING-SGO-CAMPUS LIFE-ART DEPARTMENT-LAMDA THETA PHI-TAU KAPPA EPSILON-ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB-PHYCOLOGY SOCIETY-ANIMATION CLUB-SOCIOLOGY CLUB-BIOLOGY CLUB-BUSINESS CLUB**  
**All are welcome!**

NEWS

# 28th Annual Academic Convocation

By Hannah Botjer

**O**n September 12, the 28th Annual Academic Convocation took place in the Margaret Williams Theater Hepburn Hall. It is a tradition to honor the scholars at our school, the professors as well as the retirees. It was also to welcome our new President, Sue Henderson.

The Academic Convocation is a long-standing tradition in which faculty and staff dons a rich variety of colorful and historic academic robes in order to commemorate their degree and area of study.

The President of the University Senate, Joseph Riotto, led the Convention with the academic mace. Herb Rosenberg, Chair of the Art Department, designed the academic mace in 1987. The mace represents the home of learning surrounded by the human quest for discovery.

Joanna Z. Bruno, Vive President for Academic Affairs, opened the ceremony by introducing the new president, Sue Henderson, "I'm so happy to be the woman behind the woman," said Bruno.

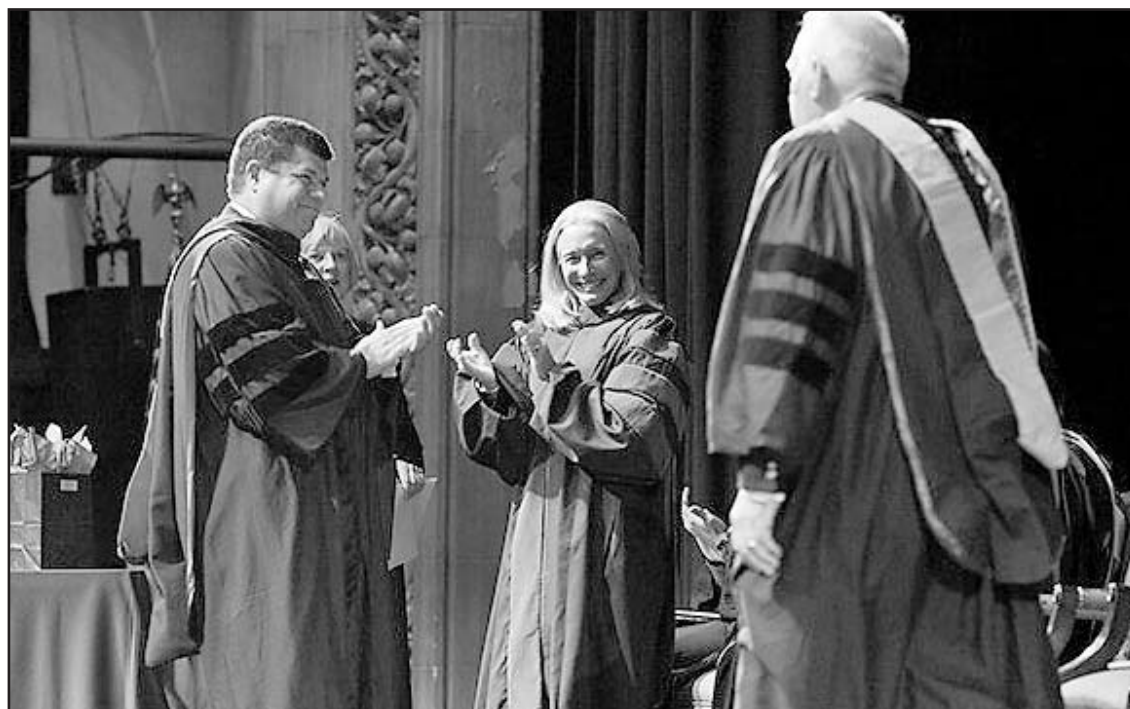


Photo by Alyssa Ki The Jersey Journal  
**President Sue Henderson Ph.D claps before giving out gifts during NJCU's 28th Annual Academic Convocation on Sept. 12, 2012 in Jersey City.**

President Henderson began by sharing with us that New Jersey City University "fit" her and that she was excited as the new president to be able to be a part of NJCU.

Dr. Bruno also introduced Rafael Perez, Chair of the Board of Trustees. He welcomed the professors who were being honored, as well as the retirees. Student Government President

Christian Diaz, extended regards to the professors on behalf of the student body.

Diaz told the attendees about how he met a counselor that changed his college career by be-

lieving in him. He encouraged the attendees to be brave and courageous and to ask questions because that's the way to create a passion.

Guest Speaker and NJCU Alumna, Danielle Kovach, addressed the attendees. Kovach is the recipient of the 2012 NJEA Members Benefits Award for Teaching Excellence, and the 2010-11 New Jersey teacher of the year.

She told the heartwarming tale of how her children get rocks from everywhere they visit as though they were memories. These rocks are important to her children. A rock doesn't have to be tangible; she explained all of our memories at NJCU are like those metaphorical rocks we hold close to our heart. Every connection we make at NJCU we should hold close to our heart because it makes us who we are today.

The 28th annual academic convention concluded with the alma mater. The scholars and the attendees left with a sense of pride for their school as the ceremony concluded.

## A teacher's teacher and Fulbright scholar: Dr. Lois Weiner

By Warren Parker

**D**r. Lois Weiner, Professor in the Department of Elementary and Secondary, was awarded the coveted Fulbright Specialist Program grant on August 2012 and was invited to Universidad Distrital, Francisco Jose De Caldas University to collaborate with faculty and graduate students in meliorating mandates germane to standards and competencies for primary and secondary schools.



Photo of courtesy of Dr. Weiner  
**Dr. Lois Weiner**

The University is Columbia's largest public university dedicated to humanistic education.

"This is a wonderful program that allows faculty who cannot take off a full year or semester to work with researchers in other countries," said Dr. Weiner. "This was a milestone in my career. I had a chance to co-teach a doctoral seminar in Colombia's equivalent of City University of New York (CUNY) and spoke at two international conferences. I think I learned more than I taught!"

Lecturing at NJCU since 1990, Dr. Weiner has developed her career as an educator, specializing in social foundations of education and curriculum and instruction and coordinating. Dr. Weiner shares her knowledge in her publications and is currently researching for her current book on what she believes is the "global assault" on teaching, teachers, and unions.

In her more than 20 year career at NJCU Dr. Weiner's department, "Is in the process of rethinking our program because of the many changes.

Teachers and schools are under tremendous pressures that they didn't face a decade ago, primarily because of privatization, cutbacks in funding, testing, and an anti-teacher climate."

"As a researcher, I've always been able to use our campus as a laboratory, to think through and apply ideas, and I'm hoping to capture what I'm learning now, perhaps in a revised version of [my book] "Urban Teaching: The Essentials."

According to Dr. Weiner, "In order to understand what's going on in this country, we have to see what's happened in the rest of the world. A project that began in the World Bank forty years ago boomeranged back to us in the form of No Child Left Behind. This project aims to privatize schools, sell them to the highest bidder, and control what's taught through standardized tests."

Dr. Weiner has a new book out explaining this concept called "The Future of Our Schools: Social Justice and Teachers Unions."

"The aim of this project is to

have the kind of workforce transnational corporations want, and the biggest barrier to their getting this is teachers unions. [The Future of Our Schools], helps in explaining this and what teachers might do to push their unions in a progressive direction," she said.

Dr. Weiner wants students to receive more than what they pay for, when it comes to her classes.

"In planning my classes, I try to give NJCU students the kind of education they'd receive at elite institutions, like Princeton."

Despite not having the same resources, Dr. Weiner believes that, "NJCU students can bring to their studies rich life experiences and a capacity to push themselves. I try to draw on these. My classes are very demanding, but I try to give students support, and in the end, almost all of them rise to the challenge. The result is that they receive a Princeton education for an NJCU tuition - a great bargain!"

Dr. Weiner hopes to pass off her knowledge not only to students, but to her fellow educators as well.

As a high school English teacher for 15 years before getting her doctorate, Weiner has worked through her philosophy of education many years before coming to NJCU.

"As a teacher educator, I want to help them develop academic skills and the ability to think critically about schooling in a democracy, and their moral and political responsibilities as teachers."



Photo of courtesy of Dolage and Mikhael

**He popped the question in her Criminal Justice class. She said YES!, like a boss.**

## Shock marriage proposal during exam!

By Latifah Miles

**W**hile the rain and wind had most of the NJCU students running for cover, 21 year old Criminal Justice major Dolage Paul received the shock of her life when her boyfriend, 22 year old Mikhael from Jersey City got down on one knee, ring in hand last Tuesday, September 18 in her Criminal Investigation class with Dr. Christopher Chapman.

Dolage says that the proposal was completely unexpected. During an exam in her afternoon class, Dolage was called out of class by her bestfriend and was told that her boyfriend had been in a car accident. Dolage rushed back into class to find her boyfriend behind her with a bouquet of flowers, a ring, and a shirt that read "Will you marry me?" After an emphatic "Yes!" from Dolage, Mikhael sported a shirt that said "I proposed like a boss" while his new fiancé wore one that said "I said yes like a boss."

Before proposing, Mikhael consulted a close friend of Dolage to plan a proposal that couldn't be turned down. Together, they bounced ideas back and forth before settling on the

perfect plan. Dolage's friend asked her Dr. Chapman for permission to propose during class and the rest is history.

Dolage and Mikhael met two years ago at a church retreat and have been inseparable ever since. Mikhael decided it was time to pop the question after he consulted his friends and realized that he had found the one. "I was talking to friends about how [marriage] was and I knew she is the best and the right one."

The couple wants to get married in the summer in about a year or two. The bride to be plans to have a destination ceremony in Egypt. "The weddings are so fun and exotic there." While Dolage plans her dream wedding, Mikhael plans on finding the newly engaged couple a place to live. "I'm financially stable and would like to find a house sooner than later."

The proposal is the first piece of the young couple's lifelong commitment to one another. Mikhael says that having a fiancé rather than a girlfriend is a new and amazing feeling. "It feels like more responsibility. Instead of two different people, you are one. Instead of worrying about yourself, you consider the other person as well."

## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

# 'Arcadia Now': Nature Through Art

By Chinedum Emelumba

The Greek Philosopher Aristotle once wrote "In all things of nature there is something of the marvelous." It's no wonder why so many artists are inspired by the structure of the world around them, often channeling the beauty of nature through art. The Visual Arts Gallery at New Jersey City University is known to feature some spectacular works of art from a vast number of talented contributors. This time, NJCU does it once again! On September 13, 2012, the gallery, which featured a group exhibition collectively titled "Arcadia Now: Contemporary Art in Country," officially opened to visitors.

Initially, "Arcadia Now: Contemporary Art in Country" was only displayed at the Christine Price Gallery of Castleton State College. In due time, the exhibition had been featured all over galleries in different states. The essence of this exhibition is to render the beauty, simplicity, and serenity of nature through a contemporary eye. This idea is expressed through the depiction of common objects, places, and through the interconnection of mankind and nature. Upon entering the Visual Arts Gallery of NJCU, the tranquil atmosphere immediately embraces the soul. Various works hang from all four walls in a simple, yet embrace manner. It's as if each piece tells a specific story with room for multiple interpretations.

Aaron Williams, a talented, native Rhode Island artist, con-



Photo by Chinedum Emelumba

Scott Walden, *Sauna at Garcia*, 2004, c-print.

tributed two pieces for this particular exhibition. Williams is no stranger to the world of art; he graduated with his Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree from Maine College of Art. He later earned his Master's degree from Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University, NJ.

Williams' painting *I Can See Through You* (2009) depicts two blue-hued bodies, side by side, in what appears to be a wilderness. It invokes the idea of vulnerability that mankind has to nature, but at the same time we are connected, and survive off of each other.

When asked about the inspiration behind his work, Williams commented, "Inspiration mostly comes from the studio, i.e. previous work.... This piece came partly from a narrative that had developed about a pair of

teenagers that, after a violent act, found themselves in an alien world. They are the only inhabitants and have the power to do anything, like change the weather or move trees and rivers." He added, "[It] was a depiction of them getting up in the morning and 'working,' changing the color of the sky, setting fires then putting them out, killing themselves and being reborn."

Williams finds that his work reflects certain aspects of nature, and he is essentially interested in the functionality of his pieces. "I try to make objects that are compelling enough that a viewer will ask questions, furthering their understanding," he said. "As I described, there was a narrative element at one point that borrowed from images of nature... but there's a conceptual bent



Photo by Chinedum Emelumba

Andrew Castrucci, *Cement Legs*, 2010, concrete, rubber, duct tape, wire.



Photo by Chinedum Emelumba

Aaron Williams, *I Can See Through You (Fall)*, 2007, mixed paint media on paper.

now. I'm more interested in what these images represent, how they operate," he added.

Though the exhibition ends on October 12, the website lists various links to the artists' personal websites. The site also includes further details about the group exhibition's history and theme. If the visuals aren't enough to satisfy your insatiable, artistic appetites, you may also want to

watch some videos from the exhibition.

Other artists whose works can be seen at the gallery and online include Sally Apfelbaum, Justine Kurland, Scott Walden, James Welling, Tenesh Webber, Tim Daly, Alisa Dworsky, Bill Doherty, Mary McDonnell, Rebecca Purdum, Nathaniel Lieb, Kiki Smith, Ken Ikeda and Andrew Castrucci.

# 'Populous': Exploring Environments

By Hannah Botjer

People are affected differently by their environment. Their lives, hopes, and dreams twisted by what happens around them. One could say that even the lives of strangers influence how we live our own. The art exhibit "Populous," at the Harold B. Lemmerman Gallery in Hepburn Hall, seeks to explore the impact people have on the spaces they live in.

The exhibit is unique in the plentitude of multiple interpretations of environments by an array of artists. Upon visiting the exhibit, I was confused by, what seemed like, the lack of relativity between the works. However, the more I admired the paintings the more I took from them.

For every artist's representation of a space came a different interpretation from the viewer. I

couldn't name a personal favorite; every piece speaks differently, further captivating the viewer.

To artist Daniel Brophy, his works are imaginative autobiographies to everyone in a different way. His paintings touch upon common themes such as religion and family.

"The world is a machine of knowledge and it mixes, blends, with my personal narratives," Brophy wrote in his statement.

Artist Kirkland Bray watched the world change around him as he grew up in a suburb, affecting his view of art.

"I have literally seen cities grow on top of cities. This staggering, often misguided growth is reflected in my art. I am trying to convey the struggle between city, suburb and countryside. Their co-existence and how I portray it in my work is what challenges and excites me," Bray wrote in his

statement.

The paintings use different mediums and methods to get their point across. The painting *Adventure Cruise Lines* by Kirk Bray is composed of three canvases and depicts a bridge entering the frame from the left of the composition leading into a cruise ship on the far right.

*Ghost, Grit & The lost Game* by Daniel Brophy depicts a city with common advertisements having turned in to an overgrown cemetery. In the dark scene there is a car that crashed, as though forgotten. The lively city seems to be forgetting its past.

Populous opens the viewer's eyes to how different people see environments in comparison to the life they live. The gallery is open until October 25, Monday through Friday, from 11:00am to 5:00 p.m. The exhibition closes with the artists' talk at 6:00 p.m. on October 25.



Photo by Dakota Santiago

Daniel Brophy, *Xylene I*, acrylic, deco paint maker, collage



Photo by Dakota Santiago

Kirk Bray, *Adventure Cruise Lines*, oil on found canvas



Photo by Dakota Santiago

Daniel Brophy, *Ghost, Grit & the Lost Game*, oil, silkscreen

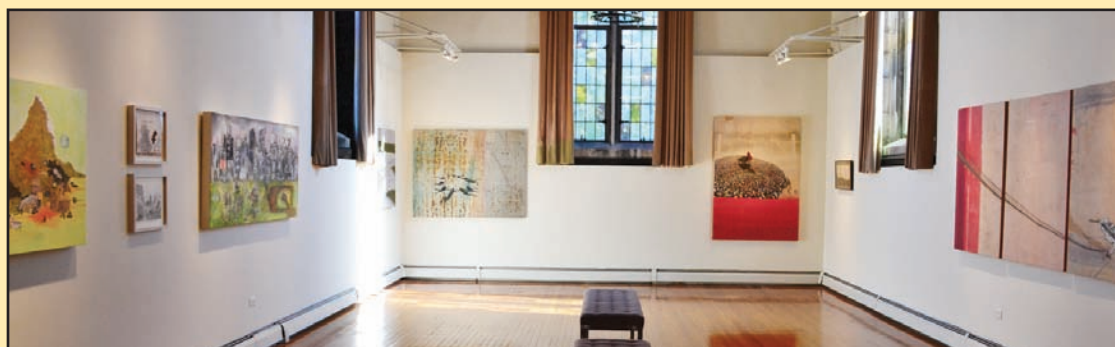


Photo by Dakota Santiago

Populous gallery

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Artists Can Get Co-ops Too

By Jennifer Vazquez

At the often forgotten part of NJCU on Culver Avenue lies the Visual Arts Building, home to some of the most hardworking students doing the messiest work. Very few know about the art majors and their experiences in some of the most diverse classes on campus, including some of the art students themselves.

Internships have always been a crucial component for most majors; they give you a fighting chance at gaining entry level positions. What about fine artists? Co-op internships are actually just as important in the arts as in any other major. Students do it for the connections, the field experience, and the challenge. Many art students choose to do their co-ops with art professors in NJCU, seeking one-on-one mentoring. These are always beneficial, but few realize NJCU is so close to the NYC art scene. Elizabeth Harney, 24, BFA Painting/Drawing major from Toms River, saw this opportunity and chose to do her co-op with Judith Shea, a sculptor from Manhattan.

The three-credit course required Harney to assist Shea at her studio once a week. She worked with the sculptor on pieces that are now on view at the exhibition "Her Own Style: An Artist's Eye With Judith Shea," curated by Shea. The experience was unforgettable for both participants and the experience gave Harney the confidence and experience for her BFA show in May. "I was able to watch her deal with the type of problem-solving and issues that often come while creating," said Harney.

Harney had the rare experience of assisting Shea on pieces for a prestigious gallery. Having thought Shea would be a business oriented figure, she was surprised to find an open and welcoming colleague. "She treated me as an intellectual equal and didn't dumb down things. She made her position as a professional artist seem obtainable," said Harney.

Shea felt a similar comfort with Liz, stating that, "Liz is just a fantastic person and a fantastic artist.... Artistically, she's sensitive to what you're doing and what you're working on." After seeing Harney's images of her recent paintings,



Photo by Jennifer Vazquez

**Judith Shea (left) and Elizabeth Harney (right) at the exhibition "Her Own Style: An Artist's Eye With Judith Shea."**

she knew she could discuss art on a more intense level. "After getting to know her, I felt I wanted to also engage her with my thinking as we worked. I found her really interesting to talk to.... It was fun to hear her different opinions on things and what she was working on and why," said Shea.

The exhibition that the pair worked on during the internship, on view until January 13th, shines light on women artists of the National Academy Museum whose artistic views have not been thoroughly observed in recent exhibitions. Shea decided to fill that void, and felt Harney was the ideal student to help her. "It was great because everything seemed like it belonged together, this idea of all these women artists and two women working on it. It was very special," said Shea.

This is the type of unforgettable and rewarding experience that NJCU offers and students neglect to seek. For those who take advantage, co-ops are the crux of their higher education. For Harney, a true connection with an established artist was the reward. Shea would certainly hire her as an assistant for a project, given the opportunity. Harney confirmed she would surely do it again. To the skeptics, Harney said that, "It's really important to meet and work with professional artists because, if that's the career that you want, you need to get used to the idea that they are just people like you. It's not just this distant world, but one that you can be a part of."

Want to learn more about Judith Shea's exhibition? Read the review and view her works online at [www.gothictimes.net](http://www.gothictimes.net).



**Louise Monument: Portrait of Louise Bourgeois, 2012 (left), Still Standing, 2010-11 (center), and Elizabeth Tribute: Portrait of Elizabeth Catlett, 2012 (right) by Judith Shea**

Photo courtesy of the artist

## Beauty 'Beyond the Garden'

By Jennifer Vazquez

NJCU student Leona Strassberg, 57, BFA Photography major from Denver, and NJCU alumna Mollie Thonneson, 54, BFA Painting/Drawing major from San Diego, co-curated the exhibition "Beyond the Garden" featuring their own works, along with works by sculptor Steve Singer, on September 7, 2012 for JC Fridays.

The one day show featured paintings by Thonneson and photography by Strassberg which use garden imagery to convey meanings beyond the picturesque. Strassberg's photos are a series of nude self-portraits in a garden, printed on black and white digital archival prints. Thonneson's paintings are from three different series using acrylic and oils on canvas and paper. They show abstracted representations of the garden, shadows of gardens, flowers growing through cracks on the pavement, and white statues in enclosed gardens in urban settings. To further emphasize the garden theme, the exhibit was shown in a backyard garden.

Strassberg's works confront the idea of beauty within the aged and decaying. The garden that surrounds her is filled with dying plants, alluding to her aging. She shows her body for what it is, showing her positive self-image in her age.

This series is a continuation of the concept from her last series where she photographed portraits of women in their 50s and 60s. Her choice to continue the concept through a series of self-portraits actually came from one of her models. As a woman in her 50s, she found it was only fitting to include herself. "I had never done self-portraits before and I was really embarrassed. But, it really helped me grow and love me the way I am," said Strassberg.

Thonneson's works also allude to the concept of beauty in decay. Having been raised in an urban environment, it was hard to find the beauty in industrial settings. Thonneson sought that beauty and found it within the moments where the urban and natural amalgamated. Her series of "Crack Flowers" acknowledge the ugly urban setting (the pavement) and the natural beauty (the flowers growing through the cracks), thus calling to a new aesthetic brought by urban living. "Generally, my work is about living in the city and finding inspiration in not so inspirational settings," said Thonneson.

Her "Shadows" series display abstracted representations of the shadows cast by a garden. Her more linear abstractions allude to the idea of death and rebirth within the garden as her paintings are done in layers, over old paintings, creating subtle overlays visible at close range. Their colorful and vibrant scheme alludes to bright colors of the garden, making them visibly coherent in the garden space. At the same time, these works allude to the urban in the use of marks reminiscent of graffiti.

Their works function well within the garden space, though the overall space could be a visual overload at first. However, the subtle relationship between their works, and to the garden as a metaphor, gives meaning beyond the pretty scene. Using traditional ideals of beauty, Thonneson and Strassberg have brought attention to a beauty beyond the archetypal garden.



Photo by Rafal Rogoza

**Mollie Thonneson, Front Yard Storage, 2011, oil on canvas.**



Photo by Charlie Steiner

**Leona Strassberg's photos and Steve Singer's sculpture at the exhibition space.**



Photo courtesy of the artist

**Mollie Thonneson, Twin I, 2011, acrylic and oil on canvas.**



Photo courtesy of the artist

**Leona Strassberg, Kale, 2012, archival inkjet print.**



Photo courtesy of the artist

**Mollie Thonneson, Nothing Else Matters Right Now, 2012, acrylic on paper.**

## ART &amp; ENTERTAINMENT

## 'Suor Angelica' Hits a Sweet Note

By Anthony Lucci

Captivatingly beautiful, *Suor Angelica* at the West Side Theatre, performed by the New Jersey City University music department, is an Italian opera written by Giacomo Puccini. In typical fashion, it ends in tragedy. The Thursday night performance lent itself to the audience, not allowing foreign language to act as a barrier for those who sat dazzled by the arias and solos.

*Angelica* retells the story of a woman who must repent for her carnal sin of having a child out of wedlock. Her parents, coldly and unfeelingly, force her into a convent to atone for her missteps. Passion and insanity overtake her in an effort to see her son again, as the child was ripped from her arms upon her entrance into a house of God. Madness drives her to a suicide attempt and before she dies, she realizes her soul has been condemned to hell.

The scenery was a poignant assortment of paintings of Madonna and a sprawling garden. The subtle arrangement of the set did not change throughout the show, but the lack of focus on the underwhelming

background allowed for a deep perception of the meaning of the performance.

The female performers, distinctly chosen from the voice department, did not lead the audience astray. The voices of angels hypnotized those who watched and brought tears to the eyes of those who heard their songs. The actresses took spectators on a magical and emotional journey with their words. Despite the international tongue, the connection between performer and listener was robust and significant to the experience.

No transparent separation between scenes could be felt; the transition from sight to setting was indistinct and graceful. The emotions, however, were multifaceted and varied. In one scene, the audience felt the joy and passion of the actors; in the next, uncontrollable sadness struck viewers.

The feeling involved with the performance left many breathless, waiting for the heart-stopping action to continue. The truly professional performance was completed by a troupe of women who are destined for operatic greatness.



www.operatoday.com

## Most Anticipated Albums of 2012

By Diana Hernandez

The year's not over and numerous albums have already been released! 2012 has been an exciting year for many artists releasing their new albums. Fans can relate to these four albums, chosen as the most anticipated albums in 2012.

### Alternative Metal

Canadian rock band Three Days Grace, famous for their singles "I Hate Everything About You" & "Never Too Late," released the hit single "Chalk Outline" off their new album *Transit of Venus* on August 14. After signing to Jive Records, Three Days Grace has released four studio albums, each at three-year intervals: *Three days Grace* in 2003, *One-X* in 2006, *Life Starts Now* in 2009, and now *Transit of Venus*, which was released on October 2.

In an interview with IGN, drummer and backing vocalist Neil Sanderson stated that this album was tighter. He stated, "...we wanted to push the boundaries as far as our sound and what we're singing about— dig a little bit deeper than a lot of the other rock bands that we're hearing out there these days..." Log on to [www.threedaysgrace.com](http://www.threedaysgrace.com) and find out more about this awesome band!

### Hip Hop:

Hip hop recording artist and Canadian native Kendrick Lamar from Top Dawg, Aftermath, and Interscope released a new album *Good kid, m.A.A.d city* on October 2. His highly anticipated album will be discussing his life in Compton.

His single "The Recipe" was released on April 3, featuring record producer and fellow rapper Dr. Dre. During an interview Lamar stated "Dying of Thirst" is the deepest song on the album. Lamar said, "I couldn't tell you what type of sound or where I'ma be in the next five years as far as music... Going back to the neighborhood... I got myself right back in that mode and I got inspired by that. So this album won't sound like *Section.80*," he told XXL. This is an album we very much look forward to. So go download it off of [datpiff.com](http://datpiff.com) and bump it in your stereo! Also, be on the lookout for a collaborative album with J.Cole that is currently in the works!

### R&B:

Ciara is not only a great singer and dancer, but ladies can relate to her songs. Men might learn a thing or two. Whether it's about heartbreak, being in love, or making mistakes, there's a song for everyone. *One Woman Army* is set to be released on December 4 through Epic Records. "It represents my strength, it represents where I stand with love, it represents what I want out of life," Ciara tells MTV News of her upcoming fifth studio album.

Ciara revealed that "Sorry" would be the new lead single from the album. The single was released on September 13, on VEVO, BET's 106 & Park, and iTunes. She has another track released on Oct. 8 called "Got Me Good" so keep an eye (and ear) out for that!

### Pop Rock/Country Pop:

Taylor Swift, the cute girl next door, has quickly become a huge star. Her fourth studio album called *Red*, her upcoming fourth studio album, is slated to be released October 22.

During a webchat, Swift revealed the meaning behind her album and its title: "All the different emotions that are written about on this album are all pretty much about the kind of tumultuous, crazy, insane, intense, semi-toxic relationships that I've experienced in the last two years...in my mind, all those emotions are red. There's nothing beige about any of those feelings."

Her lead single, "We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together" was released on August 13 and has since become Swift's first number one single on the US Billboard Hot 100. There is great debate as to whether the song is about John Mayer or Jake Gyllenhaal, but you can be the judge of that. Way to go, Taylor!

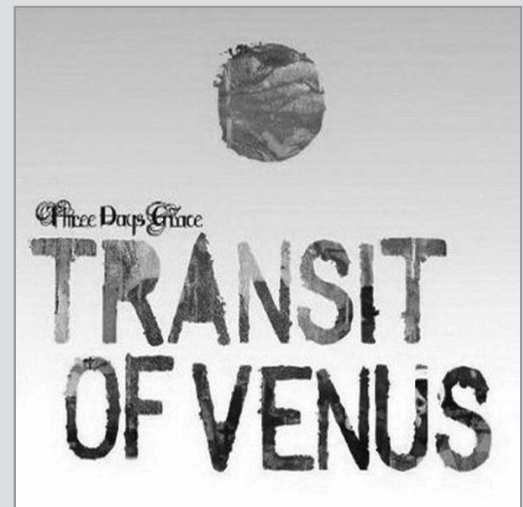


Photo from alllossless.net

Three Days Grace, "Transit of Venus," 2012

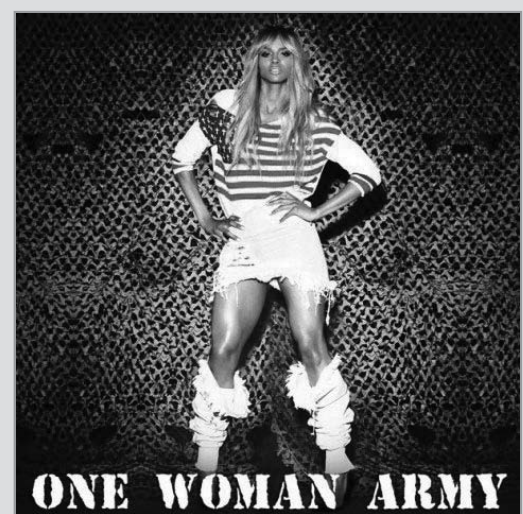


Photo from thatgrapejuice.net

Ciara, *One Woman Army*, 2012

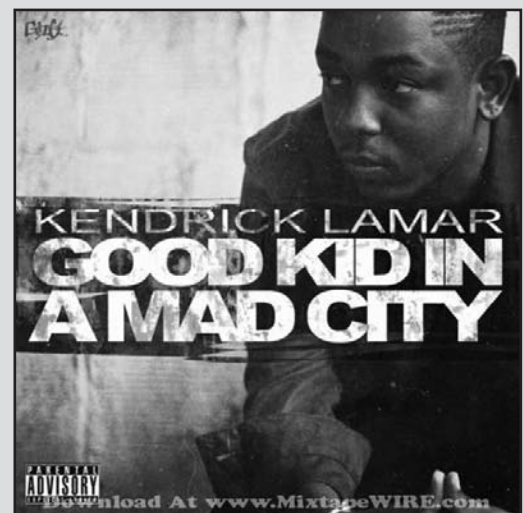


Photo from mixtapewire.com

Kendrick Lamar, *Good Kid In A Mad City*, 2012



Photo from dolator.com

Taylor Swift, *Red*, 2012

## Actors Shakespeare Company announces 2012-2013 season

By Rafal Rogoza

The Actors Shakespeare Company (ASC) has announced its 2012-2013 season entitled *Flowers of Winter*. The season marks the company's 13th anniversary and its fifth season in residence at New Jersey City University.

The upcoming season will feature a spring main stage production of Shakespeare's "The Winter's Tale." A magical journey of loss, renewal, and the promise of spring told by a cluster of characters including a jealous tyrant, a queen on trial, a divine oracle, a singing con man, and a hungry bear.

"Flowers of Winter" is inspired by a line from "The Winter's Tale," "said ASC Producing Artistic Director Colette Rice. "Shakespeare's deep connection with flowers and the natural world remind us of the cycles of loss and renewal, of the mixture of wild earthy comedy and deep spiritual tragedy which these plays bring to the stage." "The Winter's Tale" will be led by the direction of Bethany Reeves, who previously directed the ASC 2007 production of Shakespeare's "King John." The play will open at the NJCU West Side Theatre on Thursday, April 4, 2013, and will run until Sunday, April 21, 2013.

As part of ASC's free film series, Shakespeare on Screen, the company will feature two Shake-

spare-based films. The series opens at 5 p.m. Thursday, October 18, with the showing of "Shakespeare-Wallah," a 1965 Merchant Ivory production about a family troupe of English actors in India.

The second film in the series is "Black Orpheus," Marcel Camus' 1959 retelling of the Orpheus and Eurydice myth. The film is set during the time of Carnival in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. It is scheduled for 5 p.m. Thursday, February 21, 2013.

Both films will be shown at the NJCU Gothic Lounge, located at room 202 at Hepburn Hall, no reservations are required.

On Sunday, December 9, ASC will also be performing a free one-night-only presentation of "The Wars of the Roses," an ASC Lab project created by the company's resident artists. ASC artists will create the presentation using material from discussions about Shakespeare's "Henry VI" and "Richard III" that will be held for several weeks with students in class.

NJCU's 140-seat West Side Theatre is located at 285 West Side Avenue between Culver and Audobon Avenues. Main stage tickets are \$30 for adults, \$15 for students and senior citizens, and children under 15 pay their age. Group sales are available.

To purchase tickets or for more information about the ASC and the 2012-2013 season call (201)-200-2390 or visit [ascnj.org](http://ascnj.org).



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FEATURES

# “Xenophile”



Photo courtesy of Xenophile/Ron Iglesias

Xenophile

By Francis A. Wilson

What is the American dream? Is it fame? Is it winning the Nobel peace prize? Is it finding the cure for cancer? Well the short answer is no! The American dream is and always be sex, drugs, and rock and roll. And more specifically thrash metal.

Who doesn't want the American dream? We all have dreamt about it. Who hasn't? But how many of us dreamers had the stones to actually pursue it? Let's face it, the world of music and rock and roll is dominated by fat cat record producers, corporations, and sleazy record labels. Not to mention the insurmountable difficulty involved.

But for a short while during the 80's music was glorious. The genre of metal was dominated by kings, and the fans fanatically devoted dollar and cent to these bands all for the sake of the love for the music. The world was ruled by bands like Megadeth, Metallica, Dream Theater, Anthrax, Slayer, and Xenophile?

Wait, Xenophile? Who are they? Well, they are a New Jersey based band that most definitely are a product of the 80's and the bands that ruled over this decade.

The band has been playing since 2010 as a result of a meeting of two guitarists whose passions for music ran so deep that it drove them to emulate their favorite bands and not only play music but also form their own band. These two guitarists are Leart Begolli and Ron Iglesias, two of New Jersey City University's own.

Ron and Leart have been playing together for a while now, and up until the recently formed Xenophile, they had several lineup changes and other such challenges in their

quest to achieve thrash stardom. Ron Iglesias, 23 year old, Bayonne New Jersey resident, music major and history minor, has been playing music since he was eight years old. He started with piano, and at the age of thirteen he picked up the guitar and never looked back, "people told me I had a pretty decent ear for music" Ron said. But why metal, why thrash?

"I like listening to it – it's fun and it draws from a lot of influences. I have never seen a genre that was so pervasive" Ron said, "fast riffs, catchy, and fun to play – that's why I love it. For me, that is why I play thrash."

I guess that is why, Leart; Xenophiles other lead guitarist, came up with the name Xenophile. "Shit stands out, it's different. It speaks to the band and the bands influences."

Xenophile is no stranger to music. When asked about direct influences, they checked off many of the big names in metal. Some of the bands influences are Megadeth, Overkill, Dream Theater, Exodus, Deep Purple, Rush, and Pink Floyd. Wait, Pink Floyd? What is Pink Floyd doing in this line up? Well, it is because Xenophile lives up to their name, musically speaking of course. Their taste in music is eclectic to say the least. Xenophile is not afraid to blend musical styles, or cross musical boundaries in order to achieve their sound.

The band holds true to this by each sharing the burden of their music, "we all work on shit together." Ron said, "Everybody hears something differently and then we put it together." This no doubt contributes to Xenophiles almost limitless versatility. Ask them to play a song, any song, and they will undoubtedly shred it



to pieces.

This is no big surprise. Because after hearing their music, or experiencing them first hand, it will become abundantly apparent that they not only look the part, but they also prove it with their sound.

Now, their line up currently is not the original line up. Xenophile has gone through several lineup changes, the reason of course was because the people who left were terrible people, and terrible musically.

The current incarnation of Xenophile as it stands now consists of Ron Iglesias on guitar/vocals, Leart Begolli on guitar/vocals, Dane Wagner on bass/vocals, Matt Pavlik on drums/vocals, and their latest edition Derrick Schneider on lead vocals.

Wow, that is a lot of vocals. Up until recently that is, due to the addition of seventeen year old prodigy Derrick Schneider. Before this, Ron was performing both as guitarist and lead vocalist, which you can see for yourself on YouTube. The band has several videos of live performances up on their account with pictures and important information about upcoming shows and events on their Facebook page.

Xenophile has not been around long, but in its current incarnation, they have no plans on going anywhere. They are tirelessly performing, progressing, and perfecting all the time while zig zagging across New Jersey. This band has the drive and band cohesion necessary to stay together long enough to get some really good shows in. So, what's next for Xenophile? The next gig, that's what.

# The Maria Luisa de Moreno International Foundation

By Mario Martinez

The plight of anyone who has ever emigrated to The United States is one of constant pressure to assimilate to American culture, regardless of their religious, ethnic, or educational backgrounds. Though it is the American dream to establish a business, buy iPods, and to live well, the road to success for immigrants has many social barriers that impede immediate fruition. However, with patience, compassion and selflessness, we can help those within our community achieve a better well-being by simply lending a helping hand to organizations such as the Maria Luisa de Moreno International Foundation (MLMIF).

Founded 12 years ago in Colombia, the MLMIF is dedicated to improve immigrant communities, regardless of their origin, through social services that help them excel in countries throughout the Americas. The MLMIF provides programs in underdeveloped neighborhoods that promote a better quality of life, through the sponsorship of education. "Knowledge Makes the Difference" is their motto.

Some of the courses MLMIF offers help improve language skills, computer skills, understanding civil rights, and promote family values. The foundation also provides information on government and non-profit organizations that may help in affording higher education.

By catering to disadvantaged minorities in the community, one helps improve their livelihood, mitigate their arduous assimilation and assist in grooming them into sterling citizens. Through social work, one could make an impact in the sustenance of their neighbor and can create a culture of helping each other. This is a goal that NJCU alumni Juliana Marin hopes to achieve through her work at MLMIF, here in Hudson County.

Juliana has been involved with MLMIF for over three years with the ambition of making people better for society.

"I think education is most important for these people."

Like Maria Luisa de Moreno, Juliana understands that people who live in immigrant communities lack many basic communication skills that hinder them from being effective in society. She now has pledged to the community by volunteering her knowledge at MLMIF funded courses that teach how to read and write in English; provide introductory

computer courses; and help assist in finding ways to afford higher education.

Just as important is tutoring for children whose parents may lack the language skills or background to help assist them in their school assignments.

Her servitude to the community undoubtedly has changed the lives of many looking to become one with society but Juliana admits that she has also changed from her experiences in social work.



Photos courtesy of Juliana Marin

(above) Computer classes held with the help of MLMIF. (below) ELS classes



"You learn to appreciate everything that you have. Some of these people have nothing at all, but what they lack the most is to have someone to show them that they can also do it. A role model to follow."

Juliana's first hand experiences with MLMIF have given perspective in her own life, in seeing that many of those around us do not possess many of the basic skills that we often take for granted.

By educating our neighbors with simple social skills, such as in language, how to play an instrument, how to send an email; or tutoring our children, we are advancing our communities to be more productive for themselves and the rest of the world.

As the old saying goes: "Give a man a fish and he will be fed for a moment. Teach him how to fish and he always be fed."

For more information on the Maria Luisa de Moreno International Foundation or to become involved in social work, contact Juliana at:

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Kids Day 2012

LIFESTYLE

# 50 Shades: 'Mommy-Porn' You Don't Have To Hide

By Vanity Delbridge

Spanking, wrist cuffs, and dirty talk: "50 Shades of Grey" was the equivalent to "Bieber Fever," with book copies gone before they could even hit shelves. Yes, sex sells, but who would have thought your moms would be running out to get their hands on a copy.

From morning news broadcasts, radio airwaves, and book club with the ladies, *50 Shades of Grey* has been everywhere.

Some places, like the Damson Dene Hotel in England, take the book almost religiously replacing Gideon Bibles with *50 Shades of Grey*.

The book also made headlines on Twitter as Sydney Rice, an Australian Women's Olympic Swimmer, tweeted a picture of the book and admitted that the team uses it to "relax." Many of the swimmers won Gold during the 2012 Olympics.

Dubbed "Twilight for grown-ups," its sensual and erotic components may leave one hot and bothered. What's all the hype? Here is an excerpt from the book called the elevator make out session:

*"Before I know it, he's got both of my hands in his viselike grip above my head, and he's pinning me to the wall using his lips ... His other hand grabs my hair and yanks down, bringing my face up, and his lips are on mine ... My tongue tentatively strokes his and joins his in a slow, erotic*



google images

*dance ... His erection is against my belly."*

The book is centered on 22-year old literature student Anastasia Steele, 27-year old entrepreneur, Christian Grey, 27. The unworldly, innocent Ana is startled to realize she wants this man and, despite his enigmatic reserve, finds she is desperate to get close to him.

Not surprisingly so, with her quiet beauty, wit, and independent spirit, Grey gives in; but on his terms.

A fictional story of submissiveness and dominance, Grey just

may be every girl's fantasy man.

As to the people who say that those that engage in such a book are reading porn, well, let's just say most are in agreement.

"They're right!" says Alejandra Guzman, 32 year old Art major from Weehawken. "[Fifty Shades] has a lot of erotic elements, and makes your blood rise."

Assistant English Professor, Corey Frost said that he thinks 50 Shades is porn, but "People make distinctions between porn and erotica, it's simply a matter of taste."

Kyle Woolley, 22, Math/Educa-

tion from Bayonne, begs to differ. "When I think of porn, think of actual videos, so I don't consider it porn."

The buzz has even hit Hollywood; the book is going to be turned into a motion picture. Universal Pictures and Focus Features purchased the rights to the novels in March for \$5 million.

With all the hype, some are not sure as to what it's all about, while others simply take it in stride.

"I don't see what the big deal is. It's nothing new," says James Impellizeri, 22 year old Senior Media Arts Major.

Kayla Lennon, 23, Math from of Bayonne said "I don't really understand it; the hype is about the sex, not the story."

As an English Professor, Frost isn't bothered by 50 Shades, in-

stead, he's "Encouraged by the fact that every few months a blockbuster hit comes out and drives people to want to read."

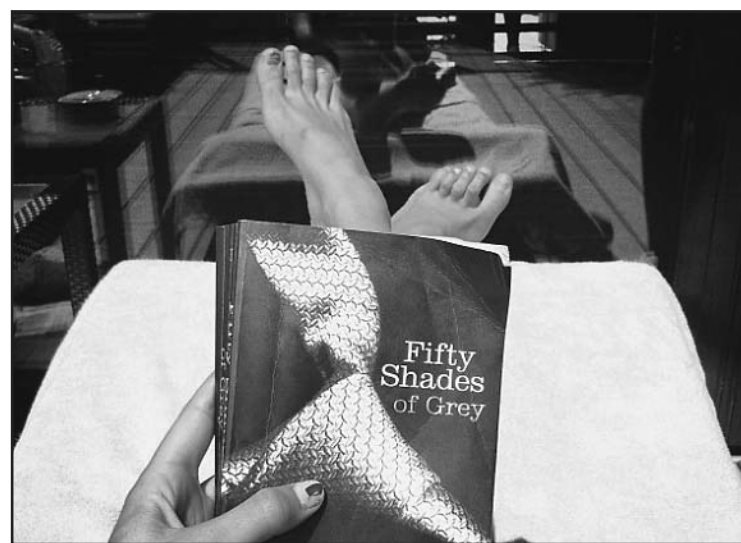
So, is any of it realistic?

"As a reader they're describing a man from a fantasy world, but there's also the reality of dominance and submissive," says Guzman.

"[I] Guess what happens in the book is real life, but no one talks about it," said Bukitowicz,

Frost took a bit of a different approach: "Having not read it, I know people have criticized it with the being misogynistic; [I] think they should read it critically, it's just fiction."

With is sure to be the craze for who knows how long. So Ladies and Lads, before you jump under the covers, have your towels handy!



celebuzz.com

## Quick and Dirty BDSM

By Francis A. Wilson

Let's talk about sex. At what point does sex become monotonous, or mundane? Probably around the same time both parties instantly come to the conclusion that their relationship needs a dash of spice. Who doesn't like a little kink here and there? Who doesn't like a little wax play, or hand cuff scenarios, or even a little spanking? Everyone loves spanking, right? There is a hidden threshold where pleasure and pain exist, but when does curiosity and a sense of adventure become too much? When does kink cross the line into a dark world? It's at times like these that, "safe words" are necessary, and you have crossed over into the world of BDSM.

So, what is BDSM? BDSM is a collaboration of terms used to define acts performed by consenting adults that revolve around but is not limited to a certain set of rules designed and enforced by a community of people, and areas of play. These areas are sadism and masochism, bondage and discipline, and dominance



Frank Wilson

and submission. BDSM is a catch all umbrella term used to a sub culture where these areas often cross over and may link together.

These areas often involve terms like, dominant, submissive, sadist, masochist, top, and bottom. These terms are used to define the role in which a person may be, or want to explore. Most of these terms are known to popular culture and are as common as breakfast in the mornings. However, what are not known too much of a degree, are the kinds of play involved with these terms.

We are talking about various forms of torture, physical and mental. We are

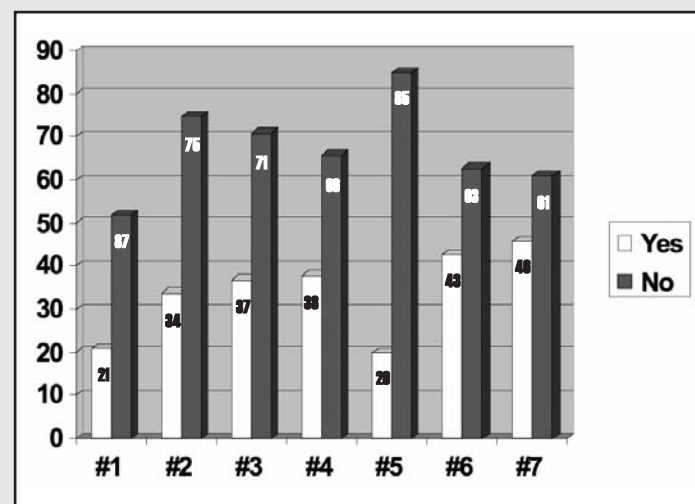
talking about latex fetishes. We are talking about dripping candle wax. We are most certainly talking about whipping, spanking, beating, and choking with a side order of chains and various other restraints. Now, by themselves these things can be a God send to a relationship with a fizzling, boring sex life. But, without proper application and knowledge of the area they are embarking upon, things can get dangerous and get dangerous quickly.

Indulging in such activities is healthy, as is a healthy sexual appetite. However, it is all too easy to get carried away. It's easy to overdo the situation, games, or scenario involved, but that can lead to injury or worse, death. Just ask David Carridean. Always bring a spotter.

There are rules. Like in anything in the world, there are rules. These rules have been set forth for safety purposes, because let's face it, choking someone or being choked can be dangerous when done improperly or performed by a novice. Be careful when upgrading your relationship from vanilla to BDSM.

## SEX POLL

By Carmina del Fierro and Anthony Lucci



	Yes	No
1. Have you ever had sex / sexual acts on campus?	21	79
2. Have you ever fantasized about a professor?	34	66
3. Do you get tested regularly?	37	63
4. Do you wear protection?	38	62
5. Have you ever caught someone in a sexual act on campus?	20	80
6. Have you ever watched porn with your significant other?	43	57
7. Have you ever cut class for sex/sexual acts?	46	54

EDITORIAL / OPINION

# SGO gets something right

It's not often that the Student Government Organization (SGO) gets praise for doing a good job. If anything, we never seem to think they do a good enough job. However, this year's SGO is off on the right foot. With a new ad campaign to promote events and a new event mascot (Blanda the non-propaganda Panda), SGO has finally gotten the campus community involved in clubs and activities.

There is finally an active e-board that actually cares and

works efficiently. No controversy. No gaffes. No stalling. It's quite rare to see an active campus fighting to get involved with SGO, a true testament to their power and influence, but it's happened. Not only have students gotten involved with clubs, elections, and events, a lot of club presidents have been giving nothing but praise for this year's e-board.



Though we would love for them to talk to us one-on-one (they have a "gag" order forbidding members to speak on their own), SGO has been transparent in their intentions and their agendas.

Kudos to SGO for finally working together with clubs and finally functioning effectively.

One does beg to question, "Then again, isn't that their job?"

## "When Are You Graduating?"

By Huda Ayyad

One of the most common questions you'll hear throughout college is "When are you graduating?" A few students will graduate in three years, some will graduate in the "average" four years, and most NJCU students will spend five to six years. According to the 2011, NJCU Institutional Profile. The question you should ask yourself is, "Am I graduating in four years?" Although the standard is to graduate in four years, remember that everyone's situation differs. Don't feel down if you're finishing a little "later" than the average four years. One thing that is fairly acknowledged at NJCU is that students take a little longer to graduate.

NJCU students come from immigrant families who never attended college. Another factor to consider is that a lot of NJCU students are part time or full time employees. Students must find ways to pay for their tuition, books, or even food as they are self-dependent when it comes to finances. When students must focus on their job responsibilities it makes it difficult for them to

put greater attention towards their education.

While students who graduate late should not be looked down upon, students who do graduate in the "average" four years should be looked at as role models and leaders. Although one may argue that there are factors which may slow down the graduation process, there are also ways to speed up it up.

The first thing students should do is plan, plan, and plan. Plan how you will take your courses, and how long it will take you to complete your degree. You don't have to meet with a counselor to figure this out, just use the resources you have such as the Major Tracking sheet, and your Gothicnet account. The amount of credits needed to graduate at NJCU is 128. Take that number and subtract it by the amount of your current credits, and see how many more credits you need to graduate.

One approach many students take to graduate early is taking summer classes. If you have Financial Aid paying for your two summer courses then go for it. If you do not qualify for Financial Aid then consider taking courses

at your local Community College in which rates are usually half the price.

Many students think that taking 18 credits per a semester is a challenge. If you do plan on taking 18 credit try to mix up your classes by having some "easy" courses, along with some "challenging" courses. For an example, if you are a Computer Science major, it's best not to take 18 credits worth of Computer Science courses in one semester, but rather try to mix it up with some elective courses.

As mentioned earlier, many NJCU students come from a immigrant family, which means they are most likely to come from a home in which English is not spoken. If you do speak, read and write in a second language consider taking a CLEP, or NYU Language Proficiency Exam. These tests can offer students up to a total of 16 credits. The CLEP test also offers students tests in many different subjects.

Finally, it is important to understand that the results you want to achieve begin with the goals you establish. Surround yourself with people who motivate and inspire you to achieve this goal.

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## New Class Standards

Continued from page 1

faculty ratios in New Jersey. In the past five years NJCU's highest student to faculty ratio was 16:1 in 2008.

Niyale Sanders, 19, History and Secondary Education major from North Plainfield doesn't think the new standards will help.

"I feel it won't make a difference. Maybe it will in a couple of years. The more people in a class, the harder it is," said Sanders.

"In a comparison of public institutions in New Jersey for 2011, The College of New Jersey had the lowest student-to-faculty ratio of 13:1, followed by NJCU and Rut-

gers-Newark with 14:1," said Bruno.

"In addition, it should be noted that our low student-faculty ratios over the last years have been maintained while being most affordable [universities]," said Bruno.

Benjamin Wynn, 21, Business major from Jersey City, welcomed the cancellation of his Saturday class. Wynn's class was moved from Saturday to Wednesday.

"It's ok [that] I had a class cancelled, I wasn't that mad. I would have been mad if I had a Wednesday class moved to Saturday" he said.

"Everyone wants Saturday off."

## Keep track of your classes with iHomework

By Juan Perez

Having trouble keeping track of your exams, assignments, and appointments? You should check out the "iHomework" App for IOS and Mac, the ultimate class tracker. For just \$0.99 you get an app that will sync to your iPhone, iPad, iPod touch, and MAC. All three versions can sync together so you have access to your class schedule, Professor's contact information, classmates, assignments, and readings on every device. It also works with your calendar app so you can keep track of your assignments, post notes, schedule reading times and easily track of your academic life, as well as, personal time. It is easy and simple a steal for that price.

You can set up your schedule

and the time contents of your syllabus and add attachments to share with additional contacts. This simplifies everything for you and easily allows you the option to keep track of everything in one nice and neat layout. With easy auto reminders you can integrate your textbooks, quiz notes, and group assignments.

As far as tracking apps go this one is great but the only downside is in-putting everything and setting up. Once you get it up and running you have the ultimate tool for not just class but for work based projects. There are two versions all the same price IOS and OSX. That is iPad, iPod touch, iPhone, and Mac computers. The one for Mac works best and the app is built to use Mac computers and IOS devices together. The iCloud also gives you the ability to keep



track of your class assignments and dates everywhere. If you want a nice new app to compliment school, the iHomework App can keep track of everything easily in one place on many Apple products.

## Meet The Greeks

Continued from page 1

DK Akademiks has done many "Meet the Greek" events across New Jersey, but "[The] NJCU "Meet the Greeks" is very special to me because of the close knit relationship between everyone I had the opportunity to work with. The event went great and embodied the epitome of Unity not among Greek organizations but among students in general."

NJCU students were allowed to "purchase" Meet the Greek tickets for no charge, however, this year's tickets sold out rather quickly. Students such as, Jonathan Rivera, 21, Math, from North Bergen, complained that "Meet the Greeks was definitely better this year, but the fact that people from other schools have to pay is

stupid. Many Greeks [organizations] like to bring in members from other school and paying really turns off people."

Despite the \$5 charge, color coordinated crowds flooded the GSUB hallways. There is no surprise that NJCU's "Meet the Greeks" brings the biggest crowds.

**Fun Facts about Greeks:**

- All but two U.S. presidents since 1825 have been fraternity men.
- 63 percent of the U.S. presidents' cabinet members since 1900 have been fraternity men.
- Both women nominated to the U.S. Supreme Court were sorority members.
- 85% of Fortune 500 Executives belong to a fraternity or a sorority.

## SPORTS

# Good-bye NJCU... Hello Holland!!!

By Vanity Delbridge

With an overall record of 5-6-2, the NJCU Women's Soccer team will see two of its very own off to Holland this month.

Assistant coaches Katie Feehan and Jennifer Albuja will represent the USA internationally in this year's World Police Indoor Soccer Tournament.

On Sunday, October 7, approximately 60 players representing the North American delegation of the U.S. Soccer Heroes will be heading to the largest indoor tourney for law enforcement personnel in the world.

Both Feehan and Albuja were stand-out players in their own right, with Katie becoming the 1st athlete in the history of NJCU to be named First-Team Academic All-American in any sport.

"It was an honor when I got the award because it had showed how hard I worked on and off the field, and sometimes the student part of student-athlete is forgotten. NJCU athletics has done a great job in emphasizing the student part and I had bought into the concept," said Feehan.

Feehan also once served as 2 year manager for the Women's and Men's Basketball team. As to how different that position was to her current one:

"It is different because I am more of a fan of basketball than a player."

With 15 total career categories, Katie placed Top 5 in every one. Her secret: "There's no big secret,

it is all about pushing yourself when your body and mind are telling you to stop. I never played for statistics; I always played for the pride of the program and the love of the game. I remember after some games I couldn't even walk off the field, that's how hard I had pushed myself."

In her first season on the sidelines, Jennifer Albuja had her shine as a former player as well. She was featured in a December 2011 Sports Illustrated Issue.

As to placing 2nd among men and women in NJAC history in total scoring: "Well I am not one to be all about statistics, every goal was to help win games for my team and I," she said. "It just shows women can compete with men without actually competing against them."

The girls' weigh in on what this experience means for them-

"It gives me the opportunity to be able to connect with law enforcement professionals from all over the world. It also allows me to play with Jen again and represent our country in a positive way," said Feehan.

As for Albuja: "It's like a once in a lifetime deal, and I cannot wait to be out there to represent for USA, my NJCU team and staff. Going out there with Katie, who I played with my freshman, well it couldn't get any better."

Having the opportunity to apart of something great, they share their initial reaction.

"It did not hit me at first but once we had our first meetings and practices, it became real," said Albuja.

Similarly, Katie dishes, "I was very happily surprised when Jen and I were both asked, it almost didn't seem real at first. I couldn't wait to start playing with her again."

With word of the news, it is almost impossible for the team or coaching staff to not have an input.

"They are all really excited for us, especially the head coach, Robert Bielan, Jr. because he has served as a mentor to both of us as well as a friend. To see two of his players from the program represent the USA internationally is something he is proud of. The girls on the team are also very excited for us," said Feehan.

Four men's teams and one women's team (which includes three players from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police), will be vying for the first North American win in the tournament's 30-year history.

"I look to gain the experience itself of being out there playing with and against people of law enforcement." "It is a great organization that should be known by more people in area, country, to eventually bring the tournament here to be recognized," said Albuja.

"I look forward to meeting and gaining knowledge about the game of soccer and about law enforcement tactics and procedures from all over the world." "I also look forward to the experience of competing internationally with a good friend of mine and watching my husband play as well," said Feehan.

## New volleyball coach Ray Vance set to serve the Gothic Knights a winning-attitude

By Ali Abdelazime

After a heartbreaking loss to Ramapo in the semifinals of the Skyline Conference tournament last year where NJCU was on the verge of pulling an upset, NJCU looks for redemption with a new coach. Coach Ray Vance is the new coach for both men's and women's volleyball. The challenge of coaching both teams was what attracted Vance to NJCU.

Vance had many coaching experiences before coming to NJCU. He was on the coaching staff of Virginia Commonwealth University, which is a Division I team. He left VCU in 2003. He also coached at the club level for 19 years. He won ten tournaments with the team he coached at SUNY New Paltz. Most of his teams held a .500 record or better.

NJCU was also a huge attraction because of the high number of first generation students.

"I can relate to first generation students, because I was a first generation in my family to go to college," said Vance.

Also, Vance has a goal set to change the culture at NJCU. The men's team has the ability to be aggressive and hard-working, but he would like to take it to the next level.

The men's team has the expectations to go far again this year, as some of its talent from last year has come back. For instance, Bemir Arslani, 19, Health Sciences, from Wayne, looks to lead the team once again to the semis and further. Arslani has been named Skyline Conference Rookie of the Week seven times, NJCU Male Athlete of the Week (01/30/2012), Skyline Conference Honor Roll (02/16/2012), First-Team All-Skyline Conference, and the 2012 Skyline Conference Rookie of the Year.

"What I do know now is that we have a new coach; someone who has never attended NJCU before. That's something I think this program needs. Coach Vance is more active as a coach, as I watch him coach the women's team. He's smart, he knows the game very well, and he amps us up about our season and motivates us to keep our grades high," said Arslani.

Vance was asked if he can meet the high expectations this year.

"Absolutely, I can. I can see

this team go back to the Skyline Conference tournament and win it and even get a berth at the NCAA tournament," he replied.

His players have his back and believe that he can get the team further than ever before.

A.J. Flores, 19, Criminal Justice, from Jersey City, a three-year veteran, said, "I like Coach Vance because he's an all around cool

guy. He seems patient and thinks like a realist. I say realist because it's easy to know roles on the team. And for our team to be great this year we're going to have to play our role. We're all excited to play this year and win the conference and make NCAA's."

The men's first regular season game is on January 26, 2013 against Brooklyn College at the JMAC court.

On the other side, the women's team does not have a lot of expectations this year, but Vance is trying to change that mentality in the team and on campus.

The team started strong this year. They won their first three games but lost the next five. Vance's goal is to change the team's outlook, make them tougher, faster, and most importantly, more aggressive. With veterans such as Kiara Martinez, 21, Pre-Law, from Newark, Indigo Hatcher, 19, Health Sciences, from Jersey City, and Jade Medley, 19, Psychology (Minor: Criminal Justice), from Queens, NY leading the team, the sky is the limit. Vance can see this team getting to NJAC playoffs.

When asked about Coach Vance, Kiara Martinez jokingly said, "[He's] a breath of fresh air."

But on a serious note, she added, "He is a great coach. He knows the game very well and knows what this team is capable of doing."

She also believes Vance is what the women's team needs to reach the NJAC playoffs.

Vance is the right man for the job as he has a lot of experiences in coaching and in winning. The players seem to admire him and love to play for him. Vance has a winning attitude that hopefully can be contagious on campus. He knows that he has a lot of expectations coming in this year and he knows that it only takes hard work to meet those expectations and even exceed them.



Photo by NJCU Office Sports Information  
Ray Vance

## October Baseball is Here!

By Edwin Escolero

Major League Baseball is a major pastime celebrated in the U.S. and around the world. As the autumn wind signals the end of summer, it also syncs with the start of MLB playoffs.

The annual MLB championship, the World Series, assembles the two teams that have proven themselves, triumphant in their own leagues and pits them both against each other for the chance to win The Commissioner's Trophy. A landmark for the MLB was in 1903 which was the start of the World Series that fans continue to revel in today.

An exact date of conception for the MLB remains disputed; many claim it to be traced back to England during the Tudor Period where it was known as "The Game of Rounders."

The mechanics of the game would be circulated in print in 1828 in The Boy's Own Book by William Clarke, while early allusions to "Base-Ball" were found in John Newbery's children's alphabet rhyme book, A Little Pretty Pocket-Book which was released in 1744.

The role of modern baseball was shifted into the arena, starting from its humble origin which dates back to 1845 thanks to a group known as the Knickerbockers Club, named after a NY fire department engine company. Through the efforts of this group the first baseball team was born,



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The St. Louis Cardinals won the 2011 World Series in seven games over the Texas Rangers.

the NY Knickerbockers.

Alexander Joy Cartwright, Jr. a key member of the group who helped set the "Knickerbockers Rules" which was the template for baseball regulations that is adhered today.

Like aged wine the antiquated sport has stood the test of time through the testimony of its fan base.

The alpha league that existed unopposed in 1876 was the National League. It wasn't until 1900 that the American League would rise to challenge the NL's monopoly over the baseball associations. The greenhorn league's motivation, capital reserve and structure have enabled it to stand against the NL.

October is the culmination of the 162-game season. This is when diehard fans can watch two worlds collide, the AL and the NL. Only eight teams make it to the MLB postseason tournament

where their wooden bats will clash against the stitched leather to avoid elimination.

MLB playoffs not only pair the leagues against each other, it also acts as a venue for fans of respective leagues like a United Nations for baseball aficionados.

These leagues operate independently from each other. Adding to the fiery atmosphere of MLB playoffs only four teams from each league are given the chance to vie for victory in the World Series.

Anticipations of a homerun and the chance to catch a foul ball bring fans flocking to the grassy field encompassed by the modern coliseum.

The playoffs not only showcase the prowess of the top players, it crowns the champions of the World Series and grants them immortality through their place in history books of baseball.