

# THE GOTHIC TIMES

The Official Student Newspaper of New Jersey City University

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October 29, 2013

## West Campus Expansion

### NJCU Outlines First Phase of Large Scale Project

By Steven Rodas

NJCU is planning a large expansion, which will include a new, 21-acre West Campus. Situated between West Side Avenue and Route 440, the goal is to have the first academic building and student residence building done by the 2015-2016 school year. The new campus will ultimately include a performing arts center, student housing, a college of education, and a school of business

"Having modern campus facilities that meet student and faculty needs are essential in a competitive and higher education market, so we just want to provide the facilities that will enhance [the] teaching and learning experience," said Dr. Aaron Aska, vice president for administration and finance.

Early in the fall of 2009, NJCU partnered with Clarke Caton Hintz and Pauline Associates to create a Facilities Master Plan that would incorporate an additional campus. Four years later, student housing and a new academic building have become the priority.

"We're just focusing [on] the first phase [of] two projects [which are] a 400-bed student housing and an academic build-



The future Academic Building: West Campus (architect's rendition).

Photo by Spiezele Architectural Group

ing which is about 100,000 square feet that is going to primarily house music, dance and theatre programs," Aska said.

Funding for student housing will rely solely on the private sector, while the academic building will require both private sector money and university debt. Requests for proposals are currently being submitted so various developers can bid on the project.

"You're going to have the housing built by a private developer on the Public Private Partnership Act. The academic building is going to be a combination of university debt and other sources of financing," said Aska.

The Public Private Partnership Act allows for the collaboration of government and one or more private sector companies to fund a business venture.

Andrew Christ, Associate vice President for Facilities and Construction Management and Co-Chair of Campus Infrastructure Working Group gave more information about how private funding for the residence building can be accessed. "{The} New Jersey Economic Stimulus Act of 2009 and the New Jersey Economic Opportunity Act of 2013, [allow] colleges and universities to enter into public pri-

private partnerships," Christ said. Associate Director of the Division of Administration and Finance Deborah Morales said the New Jersey Opportunity Act of 2013 "is an extension of [the] 2009 law which allows public colleges and universities to partner with private developers on certain projects."

Aska imagines the new academic building will cost be-

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## NJCU Students Disagree with Student Health Insurance Policy

By Ladiyah Beachum

New Jersey City University (NJCU) full-time students remain skeptical about paying for Student Health Insurance. Full-time students that don't have coverage are obligated to have the First Student (United Health Care) Plan. This year, the insurance plan costs \$1,050 for undergraduate students and \$1,505 for graduate students.

Although the health insurance is quite expensive, NJCU President Sue Henderson said, "Healthcare in general is a problem that everyone should consider," and that while it may be pricey, "I believe it to be important for everyone in our campus community."

Other universities and colleges in New Jersey, such as Stockton, William Paterson, Felician and Montclair University all have similar policies. While other facilities require students to purchase health coverage, students who already have their own health insurance are able to fill out a waiver form.

"It is in fact the same as other universities; the deadline for students to waive the insurance was



foxnews.com

Sept. 26. The extension date was Oct. 4, which we worked out with the student insurance," said Peter Ljutic, 56, NJCU Director of Student Financial Services & Risk Manager. "Being that all the state universities - Ramapo, Montclair, The College of NJ, William Paterson, Stockton, NJCU and Rowan - work together, we were able to get a good price."

Art "Authur" Chill, Bursar Representative at Ramapo College said, "As far as we are concerned, we don't force it on the students, we plant it on the student's bill and it's their responsibility to waive it. We assume that if they do not fill out the waiver,

they want the insurance. We do not force the student to have insurance, it's a choice."

Keyana Williams, 22, Psychology, from Jersey City doesn't like the policy and said, "I feel like it's wrong, considering the fact that some people can't afford it. I didn't have insurance, so I had to get the school's insurance."

"I feel like they're neglecting our rights. We're here to get educated, not to get medicated," said graduate student Alpha Rodriguez, 25, Counseling.

Others believe that the Student Health Insurance can potentially be beneficial to all students giving them a sense of security.

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### MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT HENDERSON

## The Loss of Kashic Phillip

It is with sadness that I inform you of the loss of a member of our University family. Kashic Phillip, an NJCU junior majoring in Accounting, was taken ill suddenly the afternoon of Wednesday, October 23, 2013 on his way to class in Karnoutsos Hall.

Both the NJCU Public Safety Department and an Emergency Medical Services team from the Jersey City Medical Center (JCMC) responded to calls for assistance and administered CPR to Mr. Phillip. He was then transported to the JCMC. The University was notified several hours later that Mr. Phillip had passed away.

This tragedy touches us all in the NJCU community. Mr. Phillip will be sorely missed by his family as well as his caring friends, fellow students, faculty, and staff at NJCU. Kashic's unexpected passing reminds us that life is very precious and underscores the importance of



Photo submitted

Kashic Phillip

sharing our successes as well as struggles as a community.

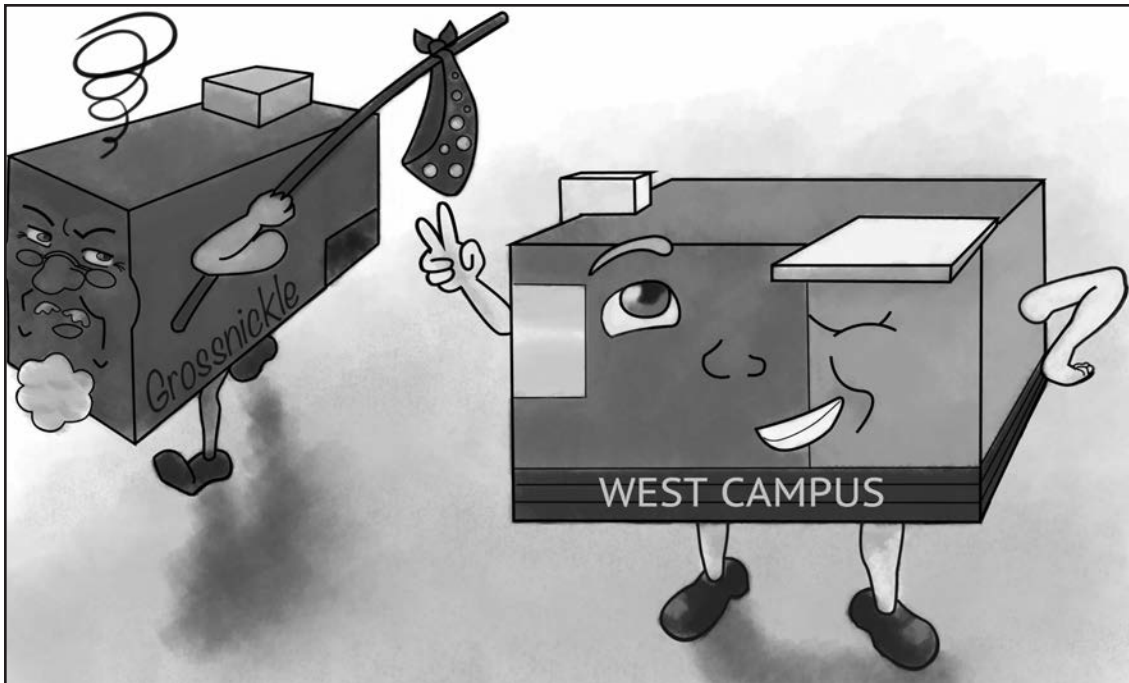
Sue Henderson, Ph.D.  
NJCU President

**EDITOR'S NOTE:**  
Funeral for Kashic Phillip:  
First Wesleyan Church  
201 Woodlawn Ave.  
Jersey City, NJ  
Thursday, October 31, 2013  
Viewing 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.  
Service from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

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## NEWS



Illustrated by Andrea Reyes

## West Campus Expansion

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tween \$40 and \$42 million dollars, and that housing would cost about \$20 to \$30 million dollars to build.

Students have mixed reaction to the plans.

"I think it's taking too long, but I think it's a good idea. The campus should be increasing, and we should expand our college [accordingly]. It makes sense to use private funding; more dorms and better equipment require a sacrifice," said Annerys De Soto, 21, a music education major from North Bergen.

Officials at the Department of Facilities and Construction Management feel confident that the funding will be secured. However, the date when the rest of the new West Campus will be constructed still hasn't been established.

"NJCU owns the property where the West Campus is being constructed," said Morales. "The first two buildings, a residence hall and academic building, are scheduled to open in Academic Year 2015/16."

The teacher's union expressed full support for any project that enhances the campus as long as the financial details are made available.

"All of us here at the American Federation Teacher's Local Union #1839 look forward to the expeditious and effective completion of the NJCU West

Campus. We fully support the expansion of the university and look towards the future. We only hope that all the financial specifics around the project are made fully transparent and open for all to cite and examine," said Dr. William Calathes, Professor of Criminal Justice and Local president of the American Federation of Teachers Union-#1839. "We also sincerely hope that every worker that's employed for this project is unionized."

### Out with the Gross, In with the New?

According to the Facilities Master Plan, the implementation of the West Campus is an effort to modernize NJCU, therefore the university may choose to demolish parts of the existing campus such as Grossnickle Hall.

"Grossnickle is very old," said Aska, while pointing out his office window. "It's about 40 [to] 50 years old, it is more expensive to maintain. So we might as well demolish that building and build a brand new building with state of the art facilities on the West Campus. Most of the classes held in Grossnickle will be held in the new building [with] state of the art technology, modern amenities [and] modern facilities. The building will contain the modern features that Montclair University and The College of New Jersey

have."

Grossnickle Hall was opened in 1962 and its demolition is included to in the Facilities Master Plan. Students feel Grossnickle has served its purpose but does not attract new students nor represents NJCU's potential as a university.

"I think it's a great idea [to demolish Grossnickle]...Grossnickle brings down our potential to be a great looking university," said Kenneth Pinedo, 20, a Professional Security Studies major from Kearny. Despite Pinedo's hopes that the demolition will happen, it is not certain. The construction currently taking place on the site is for parking and for remediation purposes.

"Until the University has additional classrooms and support space to allow for the removal of the facility, Grossnickle Hall will remain," said Morales.

Aska fittingly noted that the construction of the West Campus is "all contingent on the right financing. If we don't get the financing, we can't build it." However, he added that in order for NJCU to gain future funding it should continue to strive to be a modern university.

Students and faculty members are encouraged to visit the Facilities and Construction Management Facebook and Twitter web pages in order to get the latest information on the construction.

## Health Insurance

Continued from page 1

While students may complain about the cost of the insurance up front, Dave Opperman, President of First Risk Advisors - United Exclusive Representative disagrees.

"Well in terms of pricing, what I can tell you is, the prices are pretty reasonable especially for your undergraduates. There are a lot of students that take

advantage."

Ljutic similarly said, "The larger the numbers, the better the prices you get. If we break the full year undergraduate premium of \$1,050, the monthly cost is \$87.50."

Opperman also noted that a lot of that money does not go to waste, contrary to popular belief.

"People need the insurance and people use the insurance. It really does fill the need for the students. We're paying almost two billion dollars for NJCU students alone."

## THE GOTHIC TIMES

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

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## New West Campus Site Undergoes Cleanup

The site where NJCU plans to build its new West Campus is currently undergoing a process of remediation, where contaminated soil is removed.

In 2012, the corporation Honeywell International Inc. completed the first cleanup of this site, after the land was discovered to contain hexavalent chromium. Heavy levels of the chemical hexavalent chromium have been linked to lung cancer.

The current cleanup is to remove any other remaining chemical contaminants. Associate Vice President for Facilities and Construction Management Andrew Christ assures students and faculty that the current remediation involves non-hazardous materials.

"Chromium remediation was completed in 2012, so it hasn't been an impact on this current project," said Christ, who is also co-chair of the Campus Infrastructure Working Group.

According to both Associate Director of the Division of Administration and Finance Deborah Morales and Christ, NJCU is taking responsibility to clean up other possible contaminants.

### History

The first cleanup stemmed from a 2008 lawsuit wherein Honeywell agreed to remediate 100 acres of chromium-contaminated land along Route 440 and the Hackensack River. Mutual Chemical Company, which was later taken over by Honeywell,

ran a chromate chemical company along Jersey City's Westside.

In addition to the products made there, the environmental advocacy group Hackensack Riverkeeper found that the Mutual Chemical Company also produced over one million tons of toxic waste. Besides taking over the site, Honeywell also inherited Mutual Chemical Company's environmental problems, which included the chromium output.

### Current Work

The current remediation is under the supervision of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and a licensed site remediation professional. NJCU Facilities and Construction Management stress that they are monitoring the situation.

"NJCU has taken every precaution to ensure the safety of our students, faculty and staff [during the remediation]," said Christ.

The cleanup will take both time and money. The state provided low-interest loans to assist with the current remediation, which amounted to \$16 million dollars.

"The loan was approximately 1 percent interest rate," said Aska.

As for the date of completion, it is set for next year, but is currently running ahead of schedule.

"West Campus remediation is scheduled to be complete no later than March 2014," said Morales.

## SGO Fall Election Results

### SGO V.P. of Activities:

Stephanie Pena 207  
Liz Jimenez 159  
Joshua Bailey 34

### Senior Class V.P.:

Katherine Lizardo 320

### Senior Class Treasurer:

Pamela Minchola 325

### Junior Class President:

Paola Leguizamo 331

### Junior Class V.P.:

Alison Brown 32

### Sophomore Class V.P.:

Nicole Marte 189  
Omnia Farag 142

### Freshman V.P.:

Dyan Beltran 313

### Freshman Treasurer:

Destiny Rivera 189  
Dante Alston 145

### Freshman Secretary:

Nichelle Alexander 169  
Lanaya Santiago 162



Photo by Dakota Santiago

(L to R) Junior Class Vice President, Allison Brown; Junior Class President Paola Leguizamo; & SGO V.P. of Student Activities, Stephanie Pena.

## FEATURES

# 'Arrows In Her': One Year Later

By Diego Ugaz

The Gothic Times recently interviewed local band Arrows in Her, one of the up and coming bands in Hudson County. Arrows consists of four members, two of who are current NJCU students and one NJCU alumnus: Graphics Design Major Harold Perez (drums), Undecided Major Damian Chacon (lead vocals, guitar), and Edwin Garcia (bass), who graduated in Spring 2013 with a Bachelor's of Science in Sociology.

The fourth member, Roger Escano (guitar), was not present due to work-related reasons. The band's recent EP, "Leaving," was well-received and has put them on the forefront of a new emo and post-hardcore movement; here's the chat we had a bit after the year anniversary of "Leaving."

GT: Hey guys, so it's been a year since the EP came out, so where are you right now musically?

Damian: We're writing. I mean we're kind of in a better place. As a band, we are a lot more known than we used to be. But you get over it when it happens a bunch.

GT: With that being said, where were you guys when you were writing "Leaving", musically and in your life?

Harold: I feel like we just went into it open minded, I had just joined and these guys had a thing set up, we each had our influences and we just kinda jumped in there.

Edwin: We kinda found our band chemistry, we tried to discover a certain feel and sound, and now that we have found it, we are more ambitious and driven and trying to write a full length album.

GT: Is there a big departure from the sound of "Leaving" on the current material that you guys are writing?

D: It's a more mature sound, we've gotten better; I don't think it's a big departure.

H: The guitar playing will definitely be more ambitious.

GT: So you guys did a couple tours, as well as playing a heavy dose of shows, how do you feel that has impacted and benefited you?

D: It made us way tighter.

H: Definitely helped, we got a ton of new fans that way.

D: We promoted pretty heavy online in the first few months, but after that it was just word of mouth after playing shows and touring and stuff.

H: And it worked; a lot of people caught

on and we would go to random shows, and people would be like, "Hey man, I heard your stuff from your Tumblr," or, "We were at this party, and there were tons of people talking about you." And we're in the middle of Virginia.

D: We played a lot of out of state shows, mainly Ohio; we played there once, and when we came back, there were like 30 kids singing along. And we were only there once.

GT: That's pretty great, is it sometimes surreal that people remember you?

D: A lot of shows we play around here and far away I hear people talking about us, and not even to us, to each other so that's pretty cool, so I guess it is pretty surreal.

H: I feel like releasing stuff at the same time also adds to that level of surrealism, and I know we're gonna go back to zero after releasing this, and going around seeing what people have to say like, "Oh you're in Arrows in Her?" I would wonder what they thought of the EP.

GT: Do you feel like there is added pressure on this new release?

D: Oh yeah, there's a lot of pressure.

E: It's crazy because I was talking to one of the people that likes us. I'm not gonna say her name, but she was like, "Oh I really love the Leaving EP! I just really, really hope your new album blows it away or sounds a lot better." It's like, once a person becomes a fan, there's a pressure every time after that.

GT: It's like you become their boyfriend and they expect things to get better and better with time, right?

E: Yea, and if you don't get better you slowly start to lose them.

GT: Are there any options or things that you are looking at as a new medium for releasing your music?

D: There's a guy that's going to put out our release, Middlebrook, a label from Long Island, they put out a split of ours and that's actually coming in a couple of weeks. There's also a guy who's going to put out the release of "Leaving." And as far as the full length, as long as it's not terrible, we have a few friends that are on some good labels.

H: If we do well, there's a very good chance we'll get put out in a pretty serious label.

GT: That's really great guys. So lyrically, "Leaving" was pretty dark, sad real life stuff. Is there going to be a lot of a lyrical difference, or will there be similar themes



Photo courtesy of Arrows In Her

Arrows In Her (L to R): Damian Chacon (lead vocals, guitar), Edwin Garcia (bass), Roger Escano (guitar), and Harold Perez (drums).

running through it?

E: I feel like it'll be a different kind of sad.

D: And usually my intentions writing, I mean I don't really think it came out completely that way, but for some reason the way I like to write was very inspired by Sartre and Nietzsche, very existential and what is the world almost, but it didn't really come across that much and it just sounds sad but maybe a little more of that too.

GT: Speaking on that sad note, famous At the Drive In vocalist Cedric Bixler-Zavala once said that "All music is emotional," and that "It is kinda senseless to classify music as emo or label it that way." Do you agree with that, or do you reject that statement and embrace the emo label?

H: That's my idol.

D: That is a crazy question; emo has changed like a bunch. It's gone to a bad place, a good place, and a weird place. And of course everything's emotional but, technically, emo was emotive hardcore; it had a root. There was a reason it was called emo; it was for emotive

hardcore. So, in a way, every emo band is post-hardcore, so it's all good.

GT: When your EP was first released, the website said, "For fans of American Football," the influential 1990's emo band.

D: Oh yeah, that wasn't our fault, but everybody says it though, yeah.

GT: So since everybody says it, what do you say your music is more like?

D: I never really got the American Football [comparison] that much, but it has been said so much that I guess it must be true to a certain extent.

H: I feel like every twinkly thing gets associated with that.

D: Yea that's true, what bands do we sound more like? Because I don't wanna sound cocky, but I feel like no one sounds like us; we have a pretty interesting spin on stuff and a lot of mixed influences. People compared us to Lifetime, All Saints Day, a little bit of Alkaline Trio, a little bit of Thursday.

H: I'd rather not compare us to another band.

GT: Interesting, have you guys considered playing a show at NJCU?

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## NJCU duo seeks talents of the world, one show at a time

By Roberto Miranda

Looking to promote the musical talents of NJCU students, Magnetic Management is a show booking service started by two seniors who became friends after meeting on campus. Michael Arbitblit, 22, Business Management Major, from Bayonne, and James Impellizeri, 23, Media Arts Major, from Manville, were huge music fans of bands such as Nine Inch Nails, The Doors, Isis, and Mew before starting Magnetic Management in Spring 2013.

Magnetic Management is not limited to promoting one style of music; as of now, they are working with four bands of different genres: psychedelic, hard rock trio Ravens Ballroom, progressive metal quartet Make Them Remember, experimental post-metal band Crusade, and indie/emo rock group AlphaFlight. All four bands con-



Photo by Dakota Santiago

The men behind Magnetic Management (L to R), James Impellizeri and Michael Arbitblit.

sist of either current or previous students of NJCU.

Due to their meeting the bands through shows, Arbitblit and Impellizeri hope to unite with other bands consisting of NJCU students through future events of their own. They have booked shows at the now closed Maxwell's in Hoboken, Lot 13 in

Bayonne, and the Lamp Post in Downtown Jersey City, and are looking to expand to other areas of Jersey.

Both Arbitblit and Impellizeri plan on giving back NJCU the sense of opportunity it brought them. "If it wasn't for NJCU, I would've never met Matt Ravens, all of Ravens Ballroom,

[and] I wouldn't have met James," says Arbitblit.

After attending and networking successfully at NJCU's 24/7 Sickle Cell Musical Event held in October of 2012, Arbitblit also said the following, "I think it's a possibility that we could even have another event for some kind of benefit at NJCU, [we'd] get different bands to play, raise money, and donate it to someone. We even wanted to do something like that for the hurricane (Hurricane Sandy) last year, but, things didn't go as well as we thought it would, so, who knows, maybe at the beginning of next year we'll do another fund raiser," said Arbitblit.

Being from the Somerset County borough of Manville, with a population of about only 11,000 people, Impellizeri sees Jersey City as a great place for artists to get exposure. "Just because we're not huge like some other schools doesn't mean that

we don't have a vibrant culture here; we do, and we can bring it to the masses. The world is really right on our doorstep. There's so much talent [at NJCU], and all of Jersey City and the world, need to know about it."

In regards to the company's future, Impellizeri sees the success of Magnetic Management relying on a loyal following. "I would like to see us go to other parts of New Jersey, such as Central Jersey, where I'm originally from, and New York City. Ultimately that would be a mean[s] to attract bigger bands, or bands that have the potential to be signed, bands that are on the touring level. As we expand, that will happen because we live in this unique area."

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/MagneticManagement>

<https://www.facebook.com/the-spacestationjc>

## ARTS/ENTERTAINMENT

## AN APPRECIATION

## Artists' Tour Brings Diverse Works to Jersey City

By Crystal Davis

Imagine yourself swimming through mountains of inorganic visuals that would impact your life in brief flashes. After it was over, you would realize you've passed through something incredible: the Jersey City Artists Studio Tour. The studio tour is Jersey City's biggest event, and this year it was held on October 5 and 6, giving viewers the opportunity to see exhibitions, meet artists and get hands on information about their pieces.

Taking place at galleries and various venues around the city, the studio tour included more than 500 diverse artists, with works ranging from photography to leatherwork, painting, and so much more.

"I wanted my work to be playful and fun; with so much darkness in the world, my work expresses intimacy between couples during the most sensual of times," explained Joe Gilmore, 55, an undergraduate studying Sociology at NJCU. "During Super Storm Sandy, it came to me—'give peace a chance'."

Gilmore is as fan of the most simplistic type of medium—acrylic—

and with this his paintings are allowed the chance to glow with an over contrasted tint.

His pieces are small, but it is the meaning behind the artwork that says it all. Viewers see couples at peace with one another, being able to gain a true sense of divinity and intimacy.

With his pieces neatly lined around the walls of City Hall, there was a sense of tranquility that came from both the artist and his work.

The interactive art piece *Ribbons of Hope* was created as a remembrance of 9/11. It was featured at 150 Bay Street, in downtown Jersey City. Sponsored by Intersections International, it was an inspirational piece.

Joe Palagrecio, owner of business Promo House in downtown Jersey City, created this beautiful piece, which allows people both from the metropolitan area and around the world to "write ribbons of meaning"

and attach them to the river of wishes and dreams.

If you were unable to attend the Studio Tour this year, I suggest you mark your calendars for next fall – it's really something not to be missed.

*"I wanted my work to be playful and fun; with so much darkness in the world, my work expresses intimacy between couples during the most sensual of times."*

— Joe Gilmore



Photo by Crystal Davis

"Ribbons of Hope," by Joe Palagrecio, from the Jersey City Studio Arts Tour.



Photo by Carol Powell

Catherine Truskolawski, graphic design major, standing in front of the art building. She was selected to be an intern at the Snapple Theater in Manhattan.

## GRABBING A DREAM

## NJCU Intern Lands Job on Broadway Assisting Set Designers and Producers

By Carol Powell

Supporting an artistic dream, especially, in a world where many other people are competing against you, requires countless hours in and out of the classroom. For many students, an internship can make all the difference.

Catherine Truskolawski, 22, an NJCU and graphic design major from Kearny was one of the fortunate interns selected to assist producers and set designers at the Snapple Theater on 50th and Broadway in Manhattan.

After working several months at the Snapple Center on hit productions such as, *The Fantasticks* and

*Perfect Crime*, Catherine's dedication to her task earned her a paid position. While she is still in school, she currently works two days a week as an employee (clocking in at 10 hours). At work she gets to take a part in designing postcards, flyers, poster, and floor plans. Truskolawski also helps archiving photos of the shows. In September she was part of history when *The Fantasticks* was performed for the 20,000th time.

"I love working at the Snapple Theater because they're passionate and dedicated to their job, and work has helped improve my confidence in designing for the theater," Truskolawski said.

Her voice reverberated with excitement and passion for graphic design, almost like waking up early on Christmas morning to find your favorite gifts.

"When I walk in the theater I can be myself and do my best on projects, while working together as a team on projects assigned by the general manager," she said.

Truskolawski said that from the first time she entered the theater industry she knew it was the place she wanted to pursue her passions in art and design. Catherine hasn't yet decided if a master degree will quickly follow but she's thrilled at the thought of taking all of her knowledge thus far and earning an income.

Check out our **website**

**www.gothictimes.net**

## ARTS/ENTERTAINMENT

## REvulsion: Eccentric art of the real — and surreal

By Armando Sultan

A half-squirrel, half-human, and half-bee sculpture, created by artist Amy Swartele, hung near the entrance of the gallery in NJCU's Visual Arts Building. On October 7 the art department featured a series of works in a show called "REvulsion."

Attendees ranged from various art professors all the way to the president of NJCU, Sue Henderson.

The faces of everyone that entered the show weren't expressions of shock, or dis-

gust; rather, they were fascinated.

These reactions helped make this gallery show beau-

tiful and disturbing at the same time.

Art tends to take many forms: from the unbelievably realistic, to the world of the surreal. In this case, it took the form of the dark and deformed concepts that surround us. Whether it was Michelle Doll's paintings which questioned beauty, or Seughwui Koo's rendition of narcissism, the question of "What is defined as grotesque and beautiful?" was thrown at us the viewer, to define for ourselves.

"I am ecstatic that all my hard work was pulled together, and I am glad everyone is enjoying my vision just as much as I am," said Panida Suwannawisut, curator of REvulsion,

**"REvulsion 2," Amy Swartele's sculpture hung near the entrance of the gallery.**



Photos by Dakota Santiago

Curator Panida Suwannawisut, above, standing behind Seughwui Koo's piece entitled "Narcissism."

and a current studio at NJCU.

The show featured art that was both surreal and personal was envisioned highlight body modifications and the deep physical insecurities some people have. Amy Swartele featured two wonderfully crafted creatures that were so real people had to take a closer look to make sure they weren't being deceived. Michelle Doll, an NJCU professor, exhibited two overwhelming oil paintings; heavy strokes and intense action gave these canvases a captivating presence. Lastly, Koo's piece,

named "Narcissism," also captured everyone's attention; seven solid, colored, realistic human figures with pig heads were lined up side by side, with each head looking down at the mirror below its feet. This piece was set in the middle of the gallery floor, and encapsulated the very definition of narcissism.

"I will continue to curate and coordinate shows," said Suwannawisut. "Working with artists, and art in general, is a passion of mine. My goal is [to] continue to organize gallery shows in the Jersey City and Brooklyn area[s]."

## Xenophile: from the music department to 'Systematic Enslavement'

By Katherine Guest

Christmas lights trimmed the ceiling panels. Quaking vibrations of obnoxious stomping trembled beneath chair pegs, but the "fee-fi-fo-fum" did not come from the individuals attracted to foreign people or manners. They were not a xenophile. They were an amateur death metal band, at best, attempting to amuse more than just two lonely souls head banging in the front center stage.

Finally, there was a moment, silence.

Then, the distilled air illuminated the NEW ambiance of 80's influenced progressive thrash metal in the dingy dive venue of 10th Street Live, Kenilworth, NJ. A melodic undertone grasped the attention of the unfocused audience.

"So we're Xenophile, our first song is called 'Systematic Enslavement,'" announced lead singer of Xenophile, Roy Torres, 21, from Paterson, NJ, whose voice ranges many octaves.

Lert Begolli, 21, guitarist, from Cliffside, NJ, concluded that the band Xenophile pertains to a "collective form of music drawn from foreign influences." More specifically, it was shaped by Middle Eastern and westernized sounds and styles.

According to lead guitarist, Ron Iglesias, 24, former NJCU music and arts major from Bayonne, NJ, "Systematic Enslavement" was influenced by thrash metal. "There's [the] use of the Phrygian dominant scale, [three musical notes relative to Ancient Greece], which is featured heavily in Middle Eastern and Spanish music and was influenced by a lot of thrash."

Although this particular song is now used towards the end of the set, its melodically appeasing, yet, misleading nature shifts the audience's perspective to an extremist, heavy riff after about 30 seconds in. "System Enslavement" is one of ten

diversified songs that feature intertwining ballads and a sense of melody with elements of hardcore and progressive tempos. "All the songs are a culmination of the past three years," said Iglesias. "We don't want to play ten of the same songs, which [is] why we play ballads. People comment on the diversity."

Because of the diversification of the single, the band ultimately decided that their album, expected in early November of 2013, is entitled "Systematic Enslavement." In part to the song, the band felt it represented the general concept of the album.

Iglesias further reiterated Xenophile's overall melodious inspiration, "What really first and foremost influences us is a lot of 80's metal that falls under the category of thrash metal. For example, Metallica, but that doesn't even do the music enough justice."

As an American heavy metal band, Metallica's heavy instrumentation and aggressive tempos categorized the band as the forefather of thrash metal, along with bands such as Slayer, Megadeth, and Anthrax.

On July 2013 in Guitar Center of Manhattan, NY, Frank Bello, American bass guitarist for the thrash metal band Anthrax, gave Xenophile some insight into the music industry. "We went to this meet-and-greet with Frank Bello from Anthrax and Ron asked them, 'hey, how do you avoid getting screwed over in the music industry?' Bello replied, 'You don't; you're going to get screwed over.' it's unavoidable really," said Macarena, 19, band manager from Tenafly, NJ.

In order to transcend beyond the music industry's expectations, questions constantly arise about the avoidance of inevitable hardships. The money involved in working with promoters is a risk that ultimately follows.

Once the album is released, Xenophile established the idea of obtaining dona-



Photo courtesy of Ron Iglesias

Xenophile, performing live here, is currently writing their full-length, "Systematic Enslavement."

tions for future touring opportunities. Aside from audience funding, the band is focusing on profits from selling Xenophile logo printed t-shirts rather than gaining limited funds given by venues.

Xenophile confronted several blockading obstacles during their progressing harmonious voyage. "I've definitely seen progress, but something that's very limiting is that they haven't finished an album yet. I know they're recording, but without an album, it limits the band from progressing completely and attending 'high-end' venues," said Macarena.

Despite any hardships that might confront the band, all of the band members agreed upon their future goals. "Our aspirations are really to play a show every day, write a song every day, and release an album every other day," said Matt Pavlik, 21, drummer from Fairview, NJ. Anthony Bianco, 20, bassist and former NJCU music and arts major, from Scotch Plains, NJ, favored this notion as his band mates nodded in approval.

In the meantime, *The Aquarian*, a weekly music newspaper that reviews music conventions in the New Jersey and New York regions, wrote a positive music evaluation of Xenophile's performance in the July 2013 Jersey Shore Music and Arts Festival.

The band has extended its venues from playing in Trenton at Champs Bar and Grill, playing in Mexicali Blues in Teaneck, to Bootleg Mannings in Staten Island, NY. The Blue Room in Secaucus, during March 2013, was one of their biggest performances because of the venue's convenience to commuters.

Future appearances include, Stone Pony in Asbury Park, NJ, on October 19, 2013 and Montclair University Radio Station, who is executing a live interview of Xenophile on October 25.

For further background information on Xenophile, refer to Frank Wilson's article titled "Xenophile" on *The Gothic Times* website (<http://www.gothictimes.net/2012/10/26/xenophile/>).

## OPINION

# Ben Affleck Could Be the Best Batman Ever

By Mario Martinez

Despite being petitioned against by nearly 10,000 people worldwide who believe “his acting skill is not even close to being believable as Bruce Wayne and he won’t do the role justice,” Ben Affleck has all the potential to play one of the best Batmen ever.

When it was announced that Affleck would be starring as Wayne in the Warner Bros. sequel to *Man of Steel* (2013), Internet messages boards everywhere were overwhelmed with trolls who thought that he already ruined the Daredevil

franchise and that he would do the same again.

Without a doubt, Marvel Enterprises’ 2003 production of *Daredevil* was one of the worst super movies of all time but what actor could really pull off a convincing blind superhero? Moreover, that happened a decade ago. In the last seven years, Affleck has been nominated for a Golden Globe for Best Performance for an Actor in a Supporting Role for his role in *Hollywoodland* (2006) and nominated for a BAFTA award for Best Leading Actor for his performance in *Argo* (2012).

In the sequel to *Man of Steel*, Wayne is an older, more rugged

and jaded character in co-writers David S. Goyer and Zack Snyder’s DC Comic universe. The film still remains untitled, but the plot will be adapted from Frank Miller’s 1986 comic miniseries “The Dark Knight Returns,” in which Batman comes out of retirement of crime fighting and works opposed by the Gotham City police and the American government.

However, in the sequel to *Man of Steel*, Batman will be pitted against Superman (Henry Cavill), whose egos collide in a one-on-one super battle. It is a role that Anthony Mackie, who is starring as Falcon in Marvel’s

*Captain America: The Winter Soldier*, believes Affleck can do a great job performing.

“I think [the casting is] great.” Mackie said to E! News. “My favorite Batman was Michael Keaton because he made Batman like an everyday guy we can relate to. I feel like the last few [actors playing] Batman have been lost in trepidation that you really can’t relate to. So I feel like Ben Affleck—what makes him a star is he has that everyman quality. I feel like he is going to bring that back to Batman and make him cool again.”

Christian Bale’s performance as Wayne in Christopher Nolan’s Batman trilogy is superb as the growling billionaire superhero. However, Affleck is better built to perform as Wayne in Goyer and Snyder’s vision. In the sequel to *Man of Steel*, Wayne will be a much darker and resentful character, who is much different from Nolan’s Dark Knight.

Affleck-haters have also said that he is incapable of being intimidating. Well, imagine Superman (Cavill), who stands at 6 feet 1 inch tall, facing off with an older and bitter Batman (Bale), who is 6 feet tall. Now imagine Affleck as Batman, who stands 6 feet 4 inches and is the tallest actor ever to play as Wayne, battling in hand-to-hand combat with Superman.

Who do you think would be more intimidating in a fight?

My money would be on the lanky 6-foot-4-incher who has a chin that rivals those on Mount Rushmore. Affleck has also proven that he can be intimidating while wearing a mask in *The Town* (2010), in the riveting bank robbery scene where he holds up



www.schmoesknow.com

Bat Affleck

and ransacks a bank at gunpoint. His rough and ruthless demeanor in that performance could translate to his role as Wayne.

Ultimately, Affleck can be great if his role is great. Writers Snyder and Goyer control his fate. Being that he plays the antagonist of the film, he will have lesser face-time, and will probably be mostly seen dressed as the Caped Crusader, so he’ll be unrecognizable.

This role will be a darker version of Wayne who has become an old bitter superhero and takes it out on Clark Kent. Affleck did a pretty job of that in his roles of portraying cynical archenemy in *School Ties* (1992), *Dazed and Confused* (1993), and *Boiler Room* (2000).

With all that Affleck has done in his career, it is almost disrespectful to believe that he is not skilled enough to play as Wayne in the sequel to *Man of Steel*. His performances speak for themselves and it is evident in his recent nominations that he is getting better. His role as Wayne could solidify him as an A-list movie star rather than a director/screenwriter and could shut-up Affleck-haters worldwide.

## Let Me Breathe

By Diana De Jesus

During three-hour classes, I like to use my 15-minute break to stretch my legs – and my lungs. The leg part is simple; I walk out to the front of any building I am in. But this is where my lungs are often robbed of breathing fresh air, and I have to hold my breath through a wall of cigarette smoke until I am on the grass closer to Hepburn Hall or as far as possible from the entrance to the Starbucks, the walkway towards GSUB and all other areas that smokers gather to light up.

I feel like a loner on my breaks; I am not a smoker. My habits consist of “selfies,” pumpkin coffee, overestimating the amount of time I have available for any given project, and the occasional purchase of a

new shade of lipstick.

I’m not interested in being one of the 3,400 people that die every year from lung cancer, or the 46,000 people that die from heart disease (caused by secondhand smoke).

Health insurance is a big deal on campus and in the country these days, but why aren’t we taking steps to prevent more illnesses, such as those related to second-hand smoke? Although healthier snacks are now offered in our vending machines, there are still no designated smoking areas on campus.

I shouldn’t be subjected to inhaling cyanide, benzene, formaldehyde, methanol, acetylene or ammonia when I step out to enjoy a few minutes of the Indian summer we’ve been experiencing this semester.

There is a simple monetary solution for this air quality issue.

A designated smoking area on the far right side of each building can be created; all we need is a plaque that reads “Smoking Section.” Can the campus officials agree to order plaques that’ll encourage smokers to gather in one section per building? It’s genius, right? That way, those who hang out in the smoking section are choosing the side effects of second-hand smoke.

I’m not concerned with the damage you are doing to yourself, smoke a pack on your break if you’d like, but please – be considerate to rest of us. We’re already struggling with the pollution we’re subjected to by attending NJCU, which is right off of Route 440.

Cigarette smoke stinks to a non-smoker. It’s like farting in public and I wouldn’t do that to you.

## LIFESTYLE

# Autumn Cooking

Jersey City University community is starting to get into the holiday spirit.

“I love apple cider. It’s only around this time [the holidays] that Starbucks and Dunkin Donuts bring the pumpkin spice and apple flavors and I buy them regularly,” a gleeful Charity Lott, 22 years old, Communications Major, Jersey City.

So, to get you ready for the sights and smells of the holiday season, and with my grandmother’s permission, here’s the recipe that’s been with my family for years. Make this with your family to fill your household and belly with cheer.

### Nana Jackson’s Sweet Potato Pie

#### What you’ll need:

1 box Pillsbury® refrigerated pie crusts, softened as directed on box

1 1/2 cups mashed canned sweet potatoes

2/3 cup packed brown sugar

1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

1/2 teaspoon ground allspice

1 cup half-and-half

1 tablespoon dry sherry or lemon juice

2 eggs, beaten

Sweetened whipped cream or whipped topping

#### Prep:

1. Heat oven to 425°F. Make pie crust as directed on box for One-Crust Filled Pie using 9-inch glass pie pan.

2. Place sweet potatoes, brown sugar, cinnamon, allspice, half-and-half, sherry and eggs in blender container or food processor bowl with metal blade. Cover and blend until smooth. Pour into pie crust-lined pan.

3. Bake 15 minutes. Reduce oven temperature to 350°F; bake 30 to 40 minutes longer or until center is set. Cool completely, about 45 minutes. Serve topped with whipped cream.

Store in refrigerator, cut and enjoy.



Stephanie Frey/123rf.com

A slice of sweet potato pie with whipped cream.

By Maneerah Griffin

The leaves and the trees are changing colors and the air is cool and crisp. Autumn is upon us folks and winter is not that far behind, and the holidays are coming closer. Food

and family are what make the holidays the best time of the year. Personally, the holidays are the only time when I get to taste my grandmother’s sweet potato pie that she rarely ever bakes. While classes are now at their peak, it is obvious that the New

## Things To Do in Jersey City

By Crystal Davis

If you’ve ever wondered what to do when you’re not on campus and have some free time, we are the home to many very beautiful parks that unfortunately many of us fail to recognize. Liberty State Park and Lincoln Park are two of our biggest and fanciful nesting grounds for bike-riders and walkers alike. You can visit the 9/11 memorial, the bike path, the playground, Liberty Science Cen-

ter, Interpretive Center, and even get involved in hiking or fishing.

Your second option can be to explore the Central Railroad of New Jersey [CRRNJ], circa 1920. The Statue of Liberty will be reopening sometime in early 2014. Unfortunately it was closed due to Hurricane Sandy back in October 2012. Lady Liberty is said to be fully accessible, Ellis Island is also said to resume its daily tours near the end of next year, including the prices of taking the ferry from LSP range

from \$12-20.

If you found that museums are not quite your thing, then you can skim through the first paragraph and read this one for my third hotspot.

Pole Position Raceway [PPR], is an extremely fun and exhilarating race-car track for adults. If an adrenaline rush is what you are looking for then this should be your number one choice. Why? Because the race-karts reach up to 45 mph! The PPR is about half a

mile away from Liberty State Park on Caven Point Road. Prices range from about \$22-25 with or without a driver’s licenses. You have the option of going with a group or having a fun date.

And lastly, if you just want to have a night out on the town, explore the budding culture of both Journal Square and the amazing visuals of New York City from the Waterfront. Take a trip to one of our oldest historic sites – the Lowe’s Jersey Theatre, circa 1929; you can enjoy an “old-timey” silent film or volunteer with the restoration of the theatre’s natural

beauty.

If you would enjoy something savory, visit Madame Claude’s Café for the most amazing crepes you’ll ever taste. The restaurant is elegantly cornered in downtown Jersey City, with evening the hours range 4 p.m. to 11 p.m. on most weekdays; if you are thinking about enjoying yourself with your special someone, indulge and spend a bit—the pricier things can be beneficial.

This is as much our city as it is yours so take a load off and go have some fun.

## SPORTS

## Men's Basketball Gets Hall of Fame Help

By Bryant Romero

A 2006 inductee into the New Jersey City University Athletics Hall of Fame after a standout career with the Gothic Knights, Abdul Madison, who is considered one of top all around guards in school history, has finally decided to return to his alma mater as an assistant men's basketball coach for the 2013-14 season.

Madison graduated from NJCU in 1999 and while he feels that his return to the University was long overdue, just why did take it take Coach Madison so long to come back?

"I always had the fire to return," said Abdul Madison, 39, from Scotch Plains N.J. "But the main reason why I didn't was because of my son, he was diagnosed with autism. He's 9 years old now and his health has improved so now I feel like it's the perfect time to come back."

Head Coach Marc Brown is entering his 7th season with the team and under his leadership the Gothic Knights have become one of the top defensive programs in the conference. Now with the addition of Madison, the team's defense only looks to get better.

"He's a huge addition to the team," said Coach Marc Brown, 41, Union, NJ. "He's one of the best to play here at the University; If not the greatest he's a top 3 perimeter defender; he's coming in to help on defense and he will also be recruiting because he's from the area."

Madison's role as assistant coach will mainly be with working with the guards, where he looks emphasize that tough defense and rebounding that can lead to easy buckets.

The Gothic Knights are coming off a 15-13 season where they opened with a 2-7 record but finished strong by winning 10 of their last 12 games and clinched a playoff berth. While they struggled on offense, they led their conference on almost every defensive category. Coming into this season they lost 2 senior captains and their replacement is a veteran player coming back from an injury last season.

"Walik Albright will be the team captain this season," Coach Brown said. "He's a redshirt senior; he didn't play last season because of an injury, but he's a three year starter."

"I had a broken jaw from the beginning of last season and had to sit," said Walik Albright, 23, Psychology major from Jersey City, N.J. "But right now I'm a 100% and I'm ready to go, I feel good about being the team captain because I been around for years; I know the system and I know the players."

Despite not playing much last season, small forward Albright stayed close with the team and got to know their strengths and weaknesses.

"We didn't have a lot of veterans last year. Now we have more basketball experience; we got kids coming in from junior college, fraternities, and good freshman coming in

and with the addition of Coach Madison he's a great mentor," said Albright

Coming off a sensational freshman season where guard/forward Khalid Muhammad, 19, Business Administration major from Orange, N.J., averaged 15 points per game with 4.9 rebounds and shot 42% from the field and multiple accolades, Muhammad looks to improve on the success of last season and feels this year's team is coming into its own.

"The defense of the team has picked up and we'll play more together this year," said Muhammad. "We have good chemistry and with the extra ear and extra eye Coach Madison brings, I think we'll do well."

Not only do these kids on the team have guys to look out for them on the court, but they also have coaches that can help them out with issues that happen off the court.

"Basically a lot of what these kids are going through both me and Coach Brown have been there," Coach Madison stated. "We have the experience and we can help them out with any situation these student athletes go through."

With the new season fast approaching, with some returning players, a new team captain, and the addition of a NJCU Hall of Famer to the coaching staff; just what can the campus community expect from these group of guys?

"On paper they pass the eyeball test, I think we'll compete and be competitive; I don't see it as a rebuilding year," said



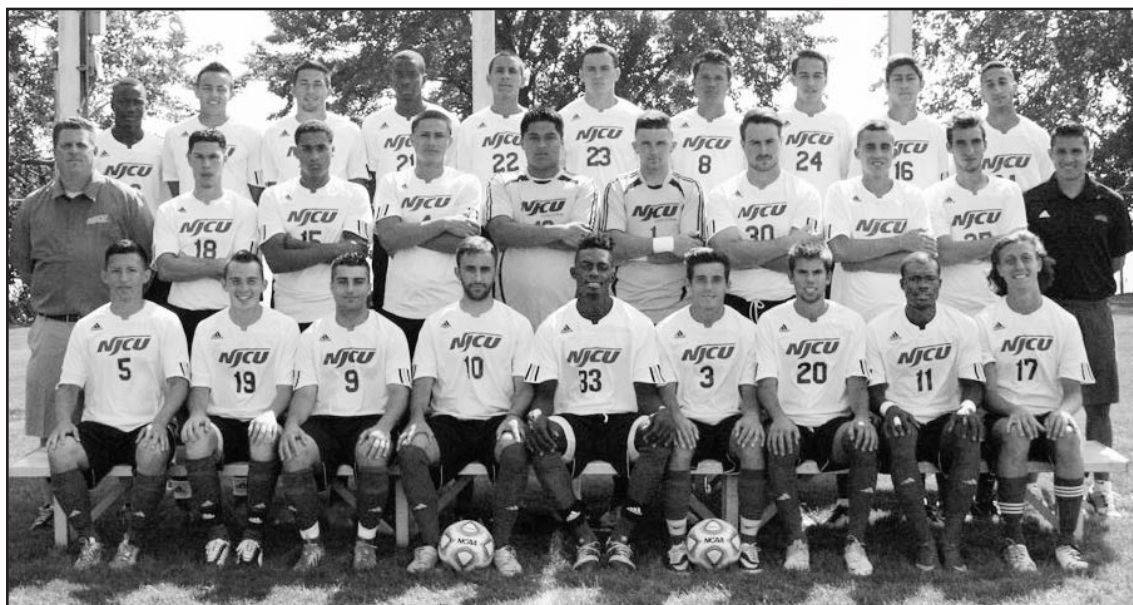
Assistant Men's Basketball Coach, Abdul Madison

Coach Madison.

Head Coach Marc Brown likes to first focus on the immediate goals for the team.

"Every year we have the same goals and the first goal is a winning season, having an over .500 record," Coach Brown explained. "Second is to make a post-season appearance and after that win it all, we have a lot of new guys so it's going to be tough."

The Gothic Knights see their first bit of action in an exhibition game against the Saints at Siena College on Nov. 2.



NJCU Men's Soccer Team

njcugothicknights.com

## Coach Snyder's Second Season

By Ike Ejikeme

Patrick Snyder is in his second year as the first men's and women's soccer head coach at New Jersey City University and expectations are definitely high.

In his first season as head coach, the men's soccer team secured its first winning season in four seasons (11-10-1) and made a post-season berth for the first time since 2008 in the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Metro Semifinals.

In just his second year as coach, there's been a huge turnaround for the men's soccer program. Coach Snyder and his staff ask a lot out of the players, but he knows that many of the guys grew up in the game and understands what it takes to win. He preaches to his players that they must, "respect one another, respect individuality, and respect the name on the front of the jersey."

The philosophy of playing for the university as a team and not for the individual is what makes

his teams so competitive. At 6-7-1 halfway through the season, coach feels the team is better than last year's.

"They are more of a team, much more cohesive, and continue to play soccer to get better," said Snyder about the 2013 men's soccer squad.

In an impressive 6-2 win over St Joseph's College on Columbus Day in a non-conference game, in which Sophomore midfielder Aboubacar Diawara, 19, Criminal Justice major from Bayonne, N.J., and Jon Carlos Sosa, 18, Accounting major from Hillside, N.J., both scored 2 goals, Snyder feels that momentum will boost the team towards further success, and consistency will earn them a trip to the NJAC Tournament.

All New Jersey Athletic Conference first team Defender/Midfielder Mohamed Conteh, 22, Business Management major from Trenton N.J., has been a huge reason the program has continued to excel. Conteh was recently featured on ESPN SportsCenters Top 10 plays in the home game victory against Kean

in early October. Being that they lost to Kean last year, it was a huge spark to defeat them at home this year and a dream come true for Conteh.

"Making SportsCenter was so surreal," said Conteh. "I've always had dreams of someday making it on that list amongst those great players, so the moment I saw it, I couldn't believe it. It humbled me and reminded me that 'nothing is impossible'".

Conteh says he hopes to one day play professional soccer, and then possibly manage a team or soccer athletic company. Despite his dreams, he realizes the task at hand and hopes to honor the team by winning a championship this season.

This type of humility is what keeps the soccer team so driven and hungry for success. Both Coach Snyder and Conteh agree that this year's team has a lot more depth and that there is competition at every position. It is the depth and family orientated environment that has helped them reach success under Snyder's helm.

## An Old Fire Lights Once Again

By Mario Martinez

This semester, you might hear "We are the Gothic Knights, the mighty, mighty Gothic Knights!" (Clap! Clap! Clap!) around campus and at sporting events from New Jersey City University's new cheerleading squad for the first time in over a decade.

Being cut from the school's budget along with the football program in 2002, NJCU has brought back cheerleading as a co-ed club that will be performing at women's volleyball games, men's basketball games and other sporting events throughout the year.

Now being offered as one of NJCU's extra-curricular activities, cheerleading is back in action to put some pep in your step and raise your school spirit. The newly reformed team practiced their splits, flips and pyramids all summer long at the John J. Moore Athletics and Fitness Center's



NJCU Cheerleading Facebook page

gymnasium and debuted the squad at the East Orange Memorial Day parade.

With brand new uniforms that show off the University's token green and gold colors, the 2013-2014 NJCU cheerleading squad will be reviving a tradition that is truly a badge of honor.

Carolyn Jane Scott was inducted into the NJCU Hall of Fame in 1982 for her 22 years of service as a faculty advisor and for being the coach of the Jersey City State cheerleaders. She won the Metropolitan Intercollegiate Championship in 1961 and 1964. Her squad also finished second in 1963, 1965, 1966 and 1967.

With the resurrection of the club, the legacy of NJCU cheerleading is once again rekindled.

## Arrows in Her

Continued from page 3

D: Yeah, I mean, we would definitely play a show here.

H: Yeah, if it's well organized and people come out, then yeah, why not? We love playing to new people, especially in this area, that would be great.

D: Our biggest struggle has been playing in this area. We had a Maxwell's show that was crazy, but the fact that we are always playing Montclair or New Brunswick, which is far as hell, hasn't helped our momentum locally. More opportunities to play local would actually be pretty awesome.

GT: Last thing, any new announcements or exciting stuff that you would like to reveal?

D: We took this time off to write, but our split is coming out on vinyl in mid to late October, and then we are trying to book a ten day or two week tour in January through Florida, Texas, and up through the Midwest, and our full length will hopefully be out by maybe February.

For more information, please visit:

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/arrowsinher>

**Bandcamp:** <http://arrowsinher.bandcamp.com/>

**Tumblr:** <http://arrowsinher.tumblr.com>



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