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New FAFSA Form Could Help Students Save Hundreds

By Monir Khilla

New Jersey City University students can save hundreds off their tuition filling out the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA) form.

Many New Jersey City University students did not know that HESAA had to be submitted along with the FAFSA application.

Many NJCU students did not know that HESAA had to be submitted with the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Depending on the scholarship or grant students qualify and apply for, the form varies.

Most students applying for the Tuition Assistance Grant (TAG), that helps low-income students pay for school, took the extra step of filling out the HESAA. This year FAFSA made changes by omitting questions to make the application easier for students to fill out.

However, New Jersey determined that some of the excluded questions were essential for the Financial Aid eligibility process, forcing HESAA to scramble and contact students.

The extra application is needed for only NJ students. Nearly 49,000 NJ college students are on the verge of losing their tuition

grants and scholarships on the account of failing to do the extra application. While the November 15 application deadline for Fall semester has already passed, it's still not too late for students to apply for grants for the Spring semester. The deadline for the Spring semester is March 1, 2011.

"I thought as soon as I saw my FAFSA, I didn't have to worry about HESAA. I didn't know that," said Joseph Rivera, 18, Communications major of Elizabeth.

Da'Shawn Simms, 21, an undecided major from Jersey City, received an early notice from HESAA in Summer 2010 and received \$4,000 for the school year for completing the extra application.

"I accidentally deleted it, but I came to the Bursar's office and they explained everything to me," said Simms, "[students should be] well-informed, and if it's handed to you, take advantage of it as soon as possible. It's something that's going to help you."

Students can review their FAFSA and questions can be directed to the Bursar's office or a Financial Advisor at the Financial Aid Department.

For more information on HESAA visit www.Hesaa.org.



It's not too late for students to apply for grants for the Spring semester. The deadline for the Spring semester is March 1, 2011.

The Bursar's office can answer questions about your FAFSA.

Photo by Joseph Rivera

NJCU buildings improve while some wait to be rescued

By Haneen Salem

Grossnickle Hall, Rossey Hall and the Science buildings at New Jersey City University have been harder to maintain due to cuts in funding, a decrease in staff and an aging of the infrastructures.

Some of NJCU's older buildings are aging and require constant maintenance and attention. "Older buildings have internal things that age, making them harder to maintain and more costly," said Carmine Catrillo, Supervisor of Facilities and Management Department.

The strain on resources and manpower are not the only deciding factors in the shape in which the older buildings on campus are kept. The conditions of some of the buildings can be blamed, in part, on funding.

"The governor's budget puts a strain on the work being done. As we lose staff it is not easy filling the spaces and we end up doing more for less," said Catrillo.

Despite its condition, Grossnickle Hall continues to house classes.



Photo by Joseph Rivera

Crumbling cement walls are showing signs of age and disrepair in Grossnickle Hall.

"Studies done by an engineering firm state that it's not financially prudent to invest in a building that is being torn down eventually," said Vice President of Finance, Aaron Aska. "I'm not going to spend \$20 million, which can be used for other things, on Grossnickle."

"For the last three years it was

rented to the Jersey City Arts Program, which halted plans to tear it down. The Grossnickle building should have been vacated this year since no maintenance or money has been put into it. Since there was not enough space for classes it was decided in September that it was to be used [for classes]," said Catrillo.

The use of Grossnickle this year to house classes has raised concerns from students about the safety of an aging building.

"It's scary to think that a building that houses most of my classes doesn't get as much attention as the rest, plus the condition the building is in is despicable," said Brittani Bounds, 19, Art major from Hoboken.

The University is taking steps to improve some of its older buildings such as Rossey Hall.

"There is going to be a fire protection upgrade, new classrooms, and a new heating and cooling system for Rossey," said Catrillo.

A new bond that was acquired recently will allow the campus



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NJCU's Guarini Library

Ask a Librarian and Meebo are here to help

By Nadya Alvarado

New Jersey City University's library new Internet program will help students get results that are more efficient for research papers. The programs, "Meebo" and "Ask a Librarian," allow students to chat or email with librarians live.

"The main difference between 'Ask a Librarian' and 'Meebo' [is that 'Ask a Librarian'] is 24 hours a day," said Jacqueline Castillo, Special Projects Librarian, one of the contributors towards Meebo.

"Q and A NJ" is an addition-

al feature of "Ask a Librarian," which is a service of the New Jersey Library Network. It provides real-time answers to your questions through the internet service 24/7.

This Q&A service is for students that work during the day and study at night. It is fast and simple to use because students only need to provide a name, school information and email, which is optional. The student types in their question and a librarian is ready at hand to answer.

"I believe it is a good idea and many students will be ben-

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NEWS



www.njcu.edu/Guarini/ASKA.htm

'Librarian' and 'Meebo'

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edited by this," said NJCU dorm student Christopher Nevers, 21, Business Major

The Q and A program is run by a co-op of academic librarians that might not be from NJCU's library; not all librarians have access to the school's database.

"I don't know, I guess I would use it just in case, whenever I am writing a paper," said Chanel Smith, 24, senior, Journalism, Jersey City.

On the other hand, Meebo is only operated by NJCU's librarians. There is a schedule posted online when the Meebo link is clicked. The link will transfer students to a list of the days and hours a librarian will be available to help.

"You can get a Meebo account that works like hotmail or g-mail which makes it easier for students to log on," said Castillo.

Students have started to take advantage of the library programs.

"I think this is a great idea for those students that can't come to school or are at work and just want to see if a specific book is in stock," said Leilani Vazquez, 25, English major.

Another way to receive information is through Google Voice that allows students to call the reference desk. If a call is missed, you can leave a voice mail and the librarian will call you back for further assistance.

"NJCU is growing as a whole, and it's awesome to see that such services that the library is providing us with are helping the students achieve the common goal, which is succeeding in college," said Vazquez.



www.njcu.edu/Guarini/aska.htm#Meebo

'There isn't just one way of responding'

By Stephanie Frietas

Carolina De Robertis, author of the critically acclaimed bestselling novel *The Invisible Mountain*, spoke at New Jersey City University's convention *Transcending Borders*, at the Gothic Lounge, Hepburn Hall on Monday, November 15, 2010.

De Robertis grew up in three different countries and cultures.

"Uruguay was inside me... it was my way of writing and my way back into this heritage," said De Robertis during the program.

De Robertis grew up in a Uruguayan family that immigrated to England, Switzerland and California. Currently she teaches creative writing at the University of San Francisco.

De Robertis began the program by stating how as a novelist, she is very passionate about words and their etymology.

"[In a society where one contends] To see responsibility as a burden, there should be no big and small when it comes to responsibilities," said De Robertis.

Transcending Borders encompasses the physical, psychological and emotional elements that allow one to go beyond borders

by taking the responsibility of listening.

"Now I know what Hell is. Hell is not being listened to," said De Robertis' client, who had been sexually abused by her boss.

De Robertis' client expressed how precious one's feelings and opinions are.

"By having the ability to respond," said De Robertis, "one can shape society."

She grew up in a family where women's stories were silence, but she realized their importance from a very young age.

"There must be a great deal of treasure beneath that silence," said De Robertis.

De Robertis was hired as a full-time rape crisis counselor in 1999; she was the first Latina and first Spanish-speaking person to be hired at this center.

She has worked for women's rights organizations for ten years now.

"I could relate to what was said because my best friend is a Women and Gender's major and has been talking to me over time about what was discussed about immigration and social activism," said NJCU Graduate Student, Alexandra Marin, Bilingual Ed-



Google images

Carolina De Robertis, author and public speaker

ucation major.

In the *Invisible Mountain*, De Robertis approaches a variety of subjects and issues that three generations of Uruguayan women faced during the political misfortunes of the country.

"One can relate to this book in every single part of the world. It is not only about a three generation family from Uruguay; it is about any single person who reads it and who feels emotionally and psychologically attached to it,"

said De Robertis.

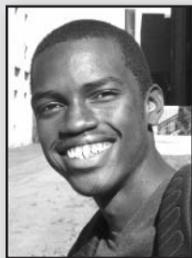
In the novel De Robertis developed three different aspects. The three elements used were oral history gathered from her family and the poetry of her paternal grandmother, historical research about Uruguayan politics and the use of fiction.

"The speech was very interesting and admirable. The power of hearing and the human spirit can conquer it all," said NJCU freshman, Jeffrey Geneao.

WORD ON CAMPUS:

Interviews & Photographs by Joseph Rivera

What are your plans for the holidays?



"Visit my family."

Kennedy Kamau - 17 - Jersey City - Business Administration



"Try to be with the family."

Rasael Gonzalez - 61 - Union City - House-keeping



"Stay at home."

Mohammad Babar - 44 - Jersey City - Accounting



"Just chilling at home."

Patrick Feniello - 21 - Jersey City - Music Major



"Christmas dinner with the family, shop and church."

Dashane' Pearson - 18 - Atlantic City (dorms) - Psychology Major



"Try to get the family together."

Nicole Guerrero - 19 - Jersey City - Undecided



"Going down to Virginia and be with the family."

Ireen Martinez - 18 - West NY - Undecided



"I'm going to celebrate my son's birthday and be with the family."

Melinda Estrada - 36 - Union City - YouthCorp Office Manager

NJCU buildings

Continued from page 1

to address its infrastructure problems.

"The capital renewal bond is a \$30 million bond that will go towards renovating the entire university," said Aska.

The science building has been reported for problems such as roof leaks, non-functioning outlets and heating and cooling issues.

"The Science Building is the worst building on campus. The rooms are far too small for classes, there are bugs crawling all over the floors, and there are stains and gum on the

chairs, desks and floors. It is very disgusting," said Nicole Baginsky, 18, Psychology major of South River.

There are some steps that have already been taken to update the Science building.

"A grant came through for the Science Building and it is scheduled to be renewed this summer," said Khatmeh Osseiran-Hanna, Vice President of Advancement.

"When you build a base of supporters whether it is alumni or students for the betterment of one's campus things start to improve gradually," said Khatmeh Osseiran-Hanna.



Photo by Joseph Rivera

Fixing floor tiles will not fix the bigger problem that caused the tiles to become undone.

EDITORIAL

NJCU Reluctant to Dream: Dreams are what we're made of

Campuses across the country marginalize undocumented students. The Dream Act will allow students in New Jersey to pay in-state tuition, which is less than the out-of-state tuition fee. Similar to most New Jersey City University students these students also work 2 to 3 jobs in order to attend school without the cushion of financial aid or grants.

Students and immigrant advocates have joined together to persuade Congress to pass the Dream Act. The Dream Act grants legal status to illegal immigrant students that were brought to the United States before the age of 16, completed 2 years college or military service and have lived here for five years and hold a high school diploma. Support for the Dream Act has grown substantially with protests, rallies, and hunger

strikes increasing— a sincere social movement that counters the latest wave of conservatism.

The letter was signed by the presidents of community colleges in the counties of Bergen, Burlington, Camden, Cumberland, Essex, Hudson, Mercer, Middlesex, Passaic, Sussex and Union. Rutgers University President Richard L. McCormack has expressed support for the Dream Act and for the students at Rutgers that would be affected by this.

Congress should pass the Dream Act to allow students the chance to legalize their status as citizens. A majority of the illegal immigrant students had no choice in coming to the U.S. be-

“Despite, calling itself the largest Hispanic serving institution, President Hernandez hasn’t followed suit with other universities that have signed letters of support.”

cause they were brought here by their parents as children.

New Jersey City University fails to address and take a firm stance on this issue. It is prudent for NJCU to take this big step and cross the political line. If a university is supposed to meet the needs of its students than it shouldn’t wait any longer and leave a large part of its students in the darkness.

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CAUGHT By Rabiah Bhatti



OPINION

Is college *really* what you expected?

By Vanity Velazquez

We all know how much change freshmen must go through in order to 'blend in' with the upperclassmen. As a freshman, I am forced to change in so many ways. To me college is not the same as what my teachers in Bayonne High School said it would be like. I can recall them saying that, "college professors do not care about whether you pass or fail, they are just there to do their job. You have freedom in college to choose to show up for class or be late. In some classes, you can eat in class and listen to your musical devices. You will see that your professors don't care about your educational standings!" My high school teachers made it sound as if they were heartless; they rather over-exaggerated.

College is definitely not what I expected—considering what I've been told. I thought that they didn't take attendance, but they do. It feels almost like high school all over again, in some cases, but yet very different in many. College is not as 'free' as it was said to be. With freedom comes limits—so I've experienced. Some of my professors allow my fellow classmates and me to munch away on food, while others are strict and allow only water—if anything. Others even prohibit the use of cell phones, which I find very much high school like!

What I notice about college students that is not true in high school is that we have matured. There are no fights to be seen and no drama to be heard. Freshmen students have become independent in doing what they want. They come to school, go to work, then take care of their needs and possibly hang out later if they have time. I know that I do not have time to waste after class has ended because every minute counts is precious; considering all the homework that is always "anxiously" waiting to be done.

What I notice about college professors is that they don't baby their students, meaning, if they tell you to email them a short summary by Saturday afternoon, 12:00 sharp, then 12:00 sharp the summary must be emailed, because in college there are no exceptions and no excuses! I like that simply because it brings the adult 'out of us,' shaping us to become more than what our parents or friends see us to be.

Over the summer, I was able to 'cheat' into getting a "head start" on the college life. I was not able to get into NJCU through regular admissions (blaming my grades and financial standings) I was given the opportunity to attend summer classes here in order to start the semester at the same time every-

one else was allowed. That is through the Opportunity Scholarships Program, also known as OSP—one of the best programs a College could ever have. It has given me that 'second chance,' making the fall semester seem much easier to begin than it was for non-OSP students.

The OSP students that I have met over the summer are now with me in all of my classes. We all came straight out of high school, and started the 'college thing' together. It was a little tougher for students from Dickinson High School—who had just graduated the day before the OSP classes began, to begin another 'chapter' of school the

next day.

I see OSP students as a family because we have all been there for each other from day one until now. Knowing these students before the real college experience started has definitely made the first days comfort-

ing. The work we did in the summer was about equal to the work we are getting right now. Personally, I feel the program has prepared me for what I am facing in my classes. I was interested to hear what my classmates felt on this topic as well, so I asked them, "How do you think the Opportunity Scholarships Program helped you out for what you are facing now during the fall semester?" Their answers—summed up altogether—that it helped them prepare for this semester in terms of setting their priorities, and they were familiar with college already knowing what to expect.

The best part about being in the OSP program is that I have a great deal of faculty willing to put time and effort into making sure that I succeed in all of my classes, and even make time for one on one sessions to just talk and ask if I'm okay.

It is only the beginning of college, with so many more experiences yet to be. If possible, joining clubs and organizations is the best way to get the 'full' college experience. It broadens the possibilities of meeting some great friends and it looks great on your resume for a job or career. College is so great because we get the opportunity to meet unique individuals, whom we will never forget. So, college is something to look forward to each and every day, no matter all of the 'myths' you've heard. Or maybe you are past the freshman stage in your college life, and already know the ins and outs of college, in terms of what it is like each semester. I have a moral that I wanted you all, my fellow classmates, to pertain, which is to, never assume anything by what anyone has said, rather, take it upon yourself to find out the true 'story' of what lies ahead.

"...we have matured. There are no fights to be seen and no drama to be heard."

"The best strategy right now for Liberals, progressives and left-leaning independents would be to abandon national politics... for Obama to be a one-term president and to allow the nation to lurch further and further to the right."

America's identity crisis

By Michael Palomino

Currently, the United States is in the midst of an identity crisis. If the nation were a character in a movie it would have to be Norman Bates from Alfred Hitchcock's Psycho. Outwardly gentle and sensitive, Norman Bates' psyche is torn asunder, committing horrible deeds to appease his strict mother; a long-dead mother who exists only as a fragment of his personality. Unable to resolve the internal contradictions between his mother's cruelty and his own meek disposition, Norman Bates' mind splits into two different personalities, transforming him into a twisted monster. Just like Norman Bates, we as individuals are fraught with internal contradictions that pull at us in different directions. On a broader scale, societies have opposing group that pull it in one direction or the other.

While our nation's identity crisis is hardly new, the recent mid-term election has brought the contradiction into sharper focus. For instance The Tea Party is a reactionary movement that despite Obama's efforts to save the foundations of American capitalism by propping up the banks, denounces him as a "Socialist" and "Anti-Capitalist." While using President Obama as a scapegoat, they have ignored the elephant in the room: that the very capitalism they seek to protect is the very capitalism that is directly responsible for the economic crisis that has left so many jobless and living day-to-day.

You can feel them squirm as they wrestle with their own cognitive dissonance, a psychological phenomenon that describes the discomfort an individual experiences when faced with information that contradicts what they believe. Similar to how one discovers that a loving parent is a child molester, the Right is unable to cope with capitalism's self-destructive nature and clings to the American dream while blaming convenient patsies through shoddily constructed conspiracy theories.

This blame game is ironic when considering old school Conservatives like William F. Buckley who proclaimed that the right distinguished itself from the left by rejecting Leftist victimization as a basis for policy.

The poster child for the nation's split personality is the Democratic Party. Like Norman Bates, the Democrats' good natured platform of representing poor and working class interests take a backseat when faced down by their right wing adversaries.

Even when the right loses control of both houses of Congress as they did in 2006 and the White House

as they did in 2008, they maintain a tight grip on this nation's policies, both foreign and domestic.

The right's rhetoric of fear and anger is enough to possess a large swath of Americans to vote against their self-interests. As a result, the line between right and left in this country has become nonexistent. Indeed, our perception of left and right has become so skewed that even a watered-down healthcare reform bill, once passed by Mitt Romney is now thought of as Obama's "government takeover" of healthcare by Minnesotan congresswoman and Tea Party favorite, Michelle Bachmann.

Unfortunately, there are no painless solutions for this malady. They say the first step to recovery is admitting you have a problem, but for many Americans the perception is that these problems are transient – not systemic – a problem that they hope will be fixed by the next election cycle.

Sadly, the last ten years of politics has demonstrated that opposing right wing interests only leads to scapegoat-ing and obstructionism. The best strategy for Liberals, progressives and left-leaning independents would be to abandon national politics altogether, focusing on local politics instead, for Obama to be a one-term president and to allow the nation to lurch further and further to the right.

It is obvious after these mid-term elections that the Democratic Party is too weak-willed to act as an effective counterweight to Republican politics.

It will not be until a significant portion of the American people see themselves jobless, their safety nets undermined, their schools defunded, their sons and daughters entrenched in foreign wars and see themselves waiting on breadlines as they were in the 1930s. Their cognitive dissonance will be corrected in epiphanies that alcoholics refer to as a moment of clarity.

As it stands, our contradictions are too incompatible, too polarized to correct these problems in today's political climate. Until we have our national moment of clarity, our elected leaders will continue to act - not in line with American principles of freedom, fairness and equality – but, out of political expediency. Until then, we will continue to have a broken two-party system that offers us no real choice.

By surrendering the national stage to the right, whether we call them Republicans or the Tea Party, they will – as they have done in the past – overplay their hand. It will be just a matter of time before their policies are exposed as fraudulent and corrupt.

What's left of America by then can be rebuilt into the more perfect union it was meant to be.

NJCU's track team meets the other end of the finish line

By Charnessa Green

Most New Jersey City University students have a sport they enjoy because of the atmosphere that comes with your fellow students taking part in collegiate sports. Who doesn't like a little school spirit that entails wearing your school colors, yelling out the player's names and their jersey number? The athletes enjoy the school spirit, because that's what drives them to do better and win.

Why would NJCU cut the track team? According to an NJCU sport's article in 2007, there were three athletes honored by Jersey City Mayor Jeremiah Healy for their outstanding achievements. Also, they were the first Division III School to break 40 seconds in a 4x100 at Penn Relays.

"It is regarded as one of the most significant athletic accomplishments in NJCU sport's history," according to the njcugothicknights. website.

For many years track and field was not meeting compliances that were set by the NCAA.

"I know some of it was budget cuts, but they

weren't meeting compliance," said the Assistant Men's and Women's Cross Country Coach, David Perez.

All athletes have to abide by a set of rules and regulations. But my question is: why would you take track away when every year new students can come in and are willing to comply?

"We were not meeting compliance; if we need 12 boys and 12 girls in six races we weren't doing that..." said Athletic Director Alice DeFazio.

Many freshmen and recent students who run Track and Field, planned to participate in college track this year. However, they were disappointed and upset about the track team being cut.

"It's messed up because they took away the track team that usually wins awards and metals and put a golf team instead..." said Danielle Colon, 20, NJCU Criminal Justice major of Pleasantville.

Students who wanted to be a part of the Knight family or runners who perhaps dreamed of becoming an Olympian won't have the chance to be the next Jeremy Wariner, Tyson Gay or Allyson Felix. What are those students supposed to do now?

OPINION

Costly choices

By Vanity Ciara Velazquez

One question that I have been pondering ever since I started school is what's up with the prices in the cafeteria? I felt that some prices on the menu were fishy. The number 4 combo, 12 piece tenders and a large fountain drink with no fries costs 5 cents shy of \$15.00. For that amount the "meal" should at least include French fries.

These questions went unanswered until I interviewed Joe Scarola, Director of Dining Services. He shared some interesting news about what is being planned for the cafeteria.

I sat down with Mr. Scarola and asked him about the pricey cafeteria food.

"Asked if he thought that some foods on the menu are overpriced, [Joe] Scarola conceded, "some things could be looked at. We are looking at bringing a meal such as a cheeseburger with fries combo and whole pizza pies in the range of five dollars."

Scarola said it had to do with the contract they have with NJCU and the prices were not chosen by the cafeteria members. The contract set the lunch prices for the pre-made menu.

When asked if he thought if some foods on the menu were overpriced, Scarola conceded, "Some things could be looked at. We are looking at bringing a meal such as a cheeseburger with fries and whole pizza pies in the range of five dollars."

Sadly, when food prices are set by a contract, not much can be done to lower the cost of meals. Fortunately, NJCU has recognized that the food prices can hurt one's budget, so they

decided to propose a pocket-friendly dollar menu. Sound good? Read on!

NJCU is taking steps to be able to make the dollar menu a reality. Scarola said to look for the following specials (these are currently not on a menu and will be run as specials only):

Hot Dogs: \$1.00

Bottled Water: \$1.00

Pizza Bagel: \$1.00

Snack Wraps: \$1.00

They will also offer \$2 and \$3 specials.

COMBO SPECIALS

Burger with fries and a 32 oz. fountain soda for \$5.95

Chicken Fingers (4) with fries and 32 oz. fountain soda for \$6.95

Chicken Wings (8) with fries and 32 oz. fountain soda for \$6.50

Wednesdays will feature a whole pizza for \$10.00 available for pick-up only.

When asked why the school has a Starbucks and not a McDonald's or Wendy's, Scarola replied, "Every year we have students and staff who negotiate what they think the campus should or should not have. This is great because we get to see the students' insight and be able to pose changes on bringing in a McDonald's, or any other food place, as the chances would be pretty high in succeeding."

As students if we become more involved we can influence the type of food choices available to the campus community.

"The SGO has a Food service committee and they meet every other week. At that meeting, we discuss changes to the current food service program for the next year when we will have a new contract," said Walter Brady, Head of the Cafeteria food services.

We are the next generation of bosses, chefs, owners, presidents and more. The future relies on our choices and the steps we take to achieve them. Let us make use of every step and think over every choice. Remember, as a student the future is in your hands!



Google images

Travelers get patted down at airports.

TSA Regulations: Safety or humiliation?

By Stephanie Del Valle and Rezaul Karim

As the holiday rush looms ahead, more and more passengers have expressed their disdain for TSA's two new screening methods: physical pat-downs and full-body scanners. Passengers who set off the metal detectors will have to pick their poison: to strip naked via an x-ray for the viewing pleasure of a TSAI agent behind a monitor or be physically groped – no body part left untouched.

One passenger recalls how a visit to the airport turned into a grope fest, in which the TSAI agent fondled his genitals and backside. Another passenger who declined both the scanning and pat-down was issued a refund, but not before being issued a civil lawsuit.

So it brings up the question, why must we go through either of these "methods" when a standard pat-down or a portable body scanner would do the trick? Are we to believe that there are no other options? Are we to believe that we can't have our safety ensured without being humiliated?

"Isn't it better to have your body seen than unwillingly touched?"

By no means should we get rid of either scanning procedures. They should be left as a last resort – suspicious objects appearing in the scanner – and only used when all other methods have been exhausted. At that

point, it can be handled privately in a professional manner, where the entire process is clarified with the passenger. This avoids the passenger unknowingly going into an awkward, embarrassing experience.

Isn't it better to have your body seen than unwillingly touched?



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Fri 4-6PM

LIFESTYLE

Real women have curves that shimmy

By Rabiah Bhatti

Tabla's (African drums) roar fiercely as the clinking of zills (finger-sized cymbals) motion hips to thrust left to right. A red chiffon skirt soars elegantly in the air and at brief moments, it swishes against the floor touching delicate feet, moving up and down. The clanking of her bangles and the shimmer of her coin belt engulfs the eyes of her audience. Slowly and passionately, her spine and arms slither in snake-like motion; she becomes lost in the music playing. She enchants her audience with sensuous yet fragile movements that amplify every curve in her physique. When the pace of the tabla slows down, she stands still, with droplets of sweat trickling down her neck. She tightens up the muscles between her shoulder blades and jolts her chest out and in; resembling a fast and over-exaggerated heart-beat. Balance is key, mastery of endurance is required and setting mind and body free are means for perfection when belly dancing.



Google images

major elements of a great costume that work well to signify dance routines are a coin belt with at least three layers of coins and beaded fringes, a matching bra top with sequins and beaded fringes flowing on to the mid section of the belly and a long skirt. Some additional elements include armbands, anklets, chandelier earrings, veils and bangles. The idea is to put together a costume that will highlight the hips, belly and arms.

Though it requires lots of practice, it is extremely enjoyable because the dance steps are dynamic and the music is energetic. Belly dance focuses heavily on developing skills that help move every part of the body separately in order to magnify the curvature of the female body. The slow, sensual move-

ments of the shoulders, arms and fingers allow the dancer to get in touch with her sexy side. While the fast and strong movements from the hips, thighs and

stomach let the dancer lose control and break free from the monotony that every day life might entail. Not only is Belly dancing fun but can be used to lose weight, strengthen muscles and the back, lose love handles, built stronger abs and release stress.

If you are dying to release the stress that comes with work and classes, pick up a hip scarf and a drum solo and shake that booty. Just let your body loose and allow your heartbeat to beat with the beating of the drums. Get lost in the music and let passion and creativity flow out from within you. Shimmy till you drop!

NJCU Makeover Edition

By Tiffany Salas

I am a freelance stylist and people hire me to give my perspective on what an outfit should look like. I consult with the student first to find out what they find appealing.

My first makeover, Kyle Preston, 18, freshman from Newark, is a member of FASHION ORG., New Jersey City University's Fashion club. Preston plans to major in Music Production, and he was my first candidate for an official NJCU Makeover.

Questions before the Makeover
Me: What do you consider "Fashion"?

Kyle: Clothing that expresses yourself, styling yourself to take risks and just being yourself.

Me: Have you ever considered giving yourself a makeover?

Kyle: Nope, never tried.

Me: What do you think is the purpose of a makeover?

Kyle: I think that it's supposed to take you out of your zone.

Me: What's your favorite color?

Kyle: Blue

Me: What are the "must have" elements of a nice outfit?

Kyle: It has to be flashy and shapes the body well.

Me: What best describes your style?

Kyle: Diverse. I can be urban one day or preppy, and I can flip that and be a rock star the next.

After my consultation I went to work. Trying on different outfits, seeing what best fit his personality, what conformed to his body, and what made him feel like he was taking a risk all the while feeling comfortable. I ravaged his closet and drawers in his dorm. In the end, I found a classic "Gentlemen's Club" look.

What makes this look a classic? Black has all of these stylish qualities: Slenderizing, Elegance, Neutral

And it has been a fashion statement for decades, hence the quintessential (LBD) "Little Black Dress" coined by the late great designer Coco Chanel.

How can you make this look your own?



Photos by Tiffany Salas

Tiffany adds flavor to Preston's new look with a pocket square.

Black is a neutral color that is always in season and goes with virtually anything.

THE OUTFIT

A tailor-fitted smoke grey men's dress shirt

A breast pocket paired with a black pocket square (compliments of Student Michael Faivush)

Black patent shoes

Black suspenders

To add "Tiffany's Flare":

-I rolled his shirt sleeves 3/4 up
-I left two of his top buttons un-

buttoned

My inspiration for this: celebrities Ne-Yo & Kanye West

AFTER THE MAKEOVER

Me: How do you feel?

Kyle: Like a superstar, like Kanye West or somebody!

Me: Do you like it?

Kyle: I Love it!

Me: Kyle, would you wear this look again?

Kyle: Yes, I'd wear it again, most definitely!

Me: Like Where?

Kyle: I'd most likely wear it to a club that I had to "dress to impress" and for the Fall.

Me: Thanks Again Kyle for giving me this opportunity, it was fun!

I lined Kyle's friends up in the Co-Op Dormitory's Lobby and when he stepped off of the elevator there were gasps and applause. The next day he wore the outfit to class and texted me, "Everybody says I look GOOD!!! THANKS"

Until next time,
"Live Fashion Everyday"
- T. Salas,
Founder of
FASHION ORG.



Before the makeover



After the makeover

Make these Holidays memorable with new traditions!

By Ally

With the holidays near, it's hard to keep the ones you love out of your mind. What is even harder is how to make this holiday more memorable than the last. Those in new relationships sharing their first holiday together can easily come up with things to do, but might have trouble keeping up with it. The following suggestions can help brighten up your plans between the two of you.

Gifts are always fun to give and receive, but it is the small things that matter. You can always write love letters to each other that express how you feel. It is a nice gesture that lets your significant other know you are still interested in them, especially if you have been together for years. You should always let your partner know how much you treasure their presence. I am sure almost everyone can agree there is something about the holidays that gives us a tingly feeling inside.

A love letter will always emphasize that warm, "head-over-heels" feeling. One suggestion that will never fail

is visiting the place you first met. If you met at a park, even if it was summer, go to that park and just enjoy each other's company.

A romantic sight to see during December is the lightening of the Rockefeller tree in New York. The magnificent tree lights up on Tuesday November 30, 2010 and will stay lit through January 2, 2011. The tree is located within the Rockefeller Center Plaza at 50th Street and 5th Avenue. It will be lit from 5:30am to 11:30pm every day, 24 hours on Christmas Day and 5:30am to 9pm on New Year's Eve.

Another fun filled activity to do is to see the New Year's Ball drop in New York. If you are willing to enjoy the festivities on this cold and exciting night on December 31, then you will have a blast counting down till the ball drops and it marks the beginning of 2011. Hold on to your sweetie pie as tightly as you can and kiss your way into the New Year. Remember, plan and arrive early, but if you arrive late you run the risk of not getting the best spot.

Every couple has an anniversary, but why not celebrate your love more than once a year? Remember, the holidays

are a great time to express your love for each other; a girl will never say no to being acknowledged as the apple of your eye.

Ladies, tickets to a sports game will give you brownie points and give him bragging rights about his girlfriend. Electronic gifts such as cameras, laptops and video games are always great. A little hint "Call of Duty: Black Ops" might be on his wish list.

Go out and make a toast to yourselves and recall joyous memories of each other. For those who are like Jack and Sally (the main characters from The Nightmare before Christmas) and enjoy the Halloween theme during Christmas, Jekyll and Hyde in New York City is the greatest place to be. It's a constant Halloween theme with ghoulish characters located on 1409 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019 - and yes, they are open Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve and Christmas day to accommodate those who want to celebrate the holidays differently.



www.clipart

Walk into a Christmas wonderland at Rolf's Bar and Restaurant and aside from its German food, the mirrors, light bulb and fake snow are mind blowing. It is a little on the pricey side but it is well worth your money. They are located on 281 3rd Ave, New York, NY 10010. It gets crowded fast, so make sure to make reservations!

If you are feeling mellow and cuddly, stay in and play board games. You get to enjoy each other's company and relax without having to dress up and go somewhere. Classic board games such as Connect Four, Guess Who, and Chinese Checkers are a great way to jazz up the evening with your honey.

The holidays are about remembering those that are special to your heart and being grateful for what you have. Celebrate in any way you want as long as you are still having fun with your significant other. Don't follow the crowd and make up your own traditions, because it'll make the memories more memorable.

Eat Healthy During the Holidays

By Stephanie Del Valle

Holiday seasons are quickly sneaking up on us, which gives us the time to simply laugh with friends and spend memorable moments with loved ones. Various cultures celebrating different holidays during the season all entail the consumption of the most delicious and delectable meals. There are some simple ways to keep your weight under control and keep our body fit. There is no reason why this control should be lost during the holiday season.

Don't fast before a big feast. Eat a light snack before a meal that is high in protein.

Don't diet during the holidays. Eat in small portions instead.

Do bring one hearty option to a party for you and other guests who are watching their weight.

Do stick to your daily exercise routine. Exercise to keep your body toned, if all else fails, dance!

Happy Holidays!

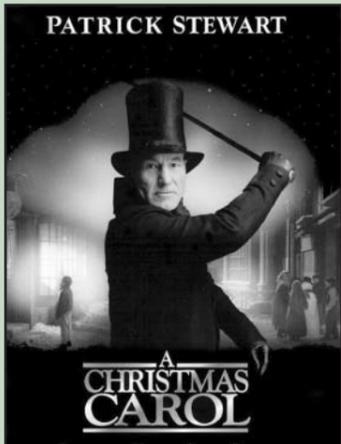
ENTERTAINMENT

CLASSIC HOLIDAY MOVIES Stories for the family

List by Jose E. Ortiz

1. *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens

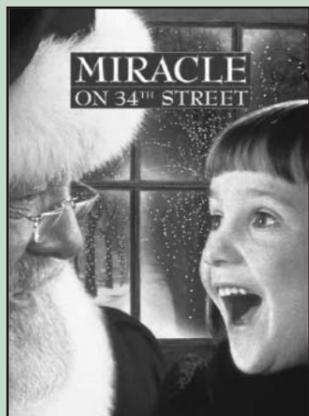
Published on December 19, 1843 and written by Charles Dickens, the story is about an old man named Ebenezer Scrooge, who is later visited by three ghosts (the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future). There are several movie versions of the movie such as "A Christmas Carol" starring Reginald Owen released on 1938, "A Christmas Carol" starring Alastair Sim released on 1951, "Scrooge" starring Albert Finney, released on 1970, "A Christmas Carol" starring George C. Scott, released on 1984, "Scrooged" starring Bill Murray, released on 1988, "A Christmas Carol" starring Patrick Stewart, released on 1999, and "A Christmas Carol" starring Jim Carrey, released on 2009.



www.movieweb.

2. *Miracle on 34th Street* by George Seaton

Written by Valentine Davies and directed by George Seaton, "Miracle on 34th Street" is about an old man claiming to be Santa Clause. The movie was first released on 1947. But the film was remade on 1994 (directed by George Seaton). Because of its Christmas theme, it has become a classic holiday film.



www.movieweb.

3. *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas*

First a silly children's book that was published on 1957, Dr. Seuss' "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" is a story about true holiday spirit and the true meaning of Christmas. The story has been transformed to a cartoon show that premiered on television on 1966 (Directed by Chuck Jones and Ben Washam). The Cartoon movie usually premieres during the holiday seasons on Cartoon Network as a Christmas special. The story then began to take in another form in the 2000 release of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" starring Jim Carrey. This is one holiday classic to add to the show list.



www.movieweb.

4. *The Nativity Story* by Catherine Hardwicke

In the Christian religion, the purpose of celebrating Christmas is to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Released on 2006, "The Nativity Story" retells the story of Joseph and Mary as they travel to Bethlehem as well as the birth of Jesus. The film was written by Mike Rich and directed by Catherine Hardwicke.



www.movieweb.

5. *It's a Wonderful Life* by Frank Capra

Directed by Frank Capra, "It's a Wonderful Life" is the story of a man who is taken by an angel and shown how life would be like if he had not been born. It was first released on 1946. The story's theme then began to be mimicked in many shows. One example is the cartoon series "Rugrats." The theme is still mimicked, even today.



www.movieweb.



http://straightfromthea.com/2010/11/04/for-colored-girls-cast-covers-essence-dual-cover/
Dual covers featured by *Essence* magazine in honor of the movie 'For Colored Girls' by Tyler Perry.

MOVIE REVIEW: 'For Colored Girls'

By Oriana Sweeney

Tyler Perry, actor, director, producer, author, playwright, and screenwriter places his long time friend Meadea in the closet to unlock a greater master piece for women. Perry, who is known for his comical lines in the classic films, *Diary of a Mad Black Woman*, *Madea Goes to Jail*, and *Why Did I Get Married* takes on the task of transforming poetry into film. This time he goes beyond the limit with his heart wrenching film "For Colored Girls," which was released on November 5, 2010.

The film is an adaptation of Ntozake Shange's 1977 Broadway play and book, *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When The Rainbow Is Enuf*. Perry captures the life of eight women who struggle to deal with the reality of life: murder, rape, abortion, war, religion, parenting, relationships, sexual abuse, and

health issues. The film reveals the hardship of the eight women who are yearning for companionship, love, trust, stability and learning to enjoy the single life. Every woman will relate to the characters in the film.

While writing the script Perry knew the actors and actresses he wanted to cast in the film. The most intriguing characters include Kelly (Kerry Washington) the social worker, Gilda (Phylicia Rashad) the old and all-seeing neighbor, Tangy (Thandie New-

"Perry captures the life of eight women who struggle to deal with the reality of life: murder, rape, abortion, war, religion, parenting, relationships, sexual abuse, and health issues."

ton) the girl who lives on edge, Crystal (Kimberly Elise) a working mother of two and egotistical Jo (Janet Jackson) who runs a successful magazine company.

Perry does an amazing job at infusing the poetry of Shange, which reminds me of Nina Simone's song, "Four Women." The song makes the distinction between four women who suffer from the constant issues women face in the film. "Four Women" like Shange's poetry empowers women to be strong. The verses of Shange's poetry are mind blowing yet mirror the truth. The words are delivered in a powerful manner and deeply rooted within the characters which make the film raw. In hearing and seeing the lives of these eight women one cannot help but feel numb. Perry's timing of the incorporation of the poetry is a monologue of these women's harsh conditions. In the end the eight women take responsibility for their own actions and they become closer.

Keyshia Cole returns for the holidays

By Oriana Sweeney

Three-time platinum recording artist, Keyshia Cole is back in the studio recording for the holiday. Cole is expected to release her fourth studio album on December 21, 2010. Fans can expect a lighter and refreshing sound from Cole.

Cole first had people raving about her when she released her single, "I Changed My Mind" which features Kayne West in 2005. No one knew this Oakland, California native, yet her

"Cole is not different from the other young women who have had their hearts broken and been cheated on."

fans knew her better and it was time for her to focus on her music career rather than the conflicts among her family members. Cole began to make a deeper connection with her fans through her music. People could relate to what she had experienced. Young women enjoyed her music because it reflected issues that they constantly face in their relationships. The title itself shows that Keyshia Cole is not different from other young women who have had their hearts broken, been cheated on, and finally decided to let him go. "Just Like You" debuted at #2 on the Billboard charts and was nominated for four Grammy's. Still working hard Cole produced her third studio album, *A Different Me*, on December 16



google images

Keyshia Cole

2008. This was the perfect album to have for Christmas. Cole had grown into women that many loved and adored. Fans have watched her come from Oakland, California

and remain humble living this glamorous life in Atlanta, Georgia.

Her first single "I Ain't Thru" features Nicki Minaj, the Black Barbie. The video is expected to premiere sometime in November. The song has the potential to be a hit record but it is not as catchy as her previous songs. However, the gospel inspired beats places you in that "feel good" mood. In contrast, her other single "Someone Tell My Heart" is about her struggle to end a relationship. Cole tries to get her mind and heart to arrive at a conclusion. What makes this such a great record is that women today share the same experience. This holiday we can expect to get to know the new mother, and fiancé Keyshia Cole.

ENTERTAINMENT

2010 MOST WANTED

It doesn't matter if you're naughty or nice, you'll still get an electronic device

By Haneen Salem

Christmas shopping should be a breeze for the technologically savvy. 2010 has been a prosperous year in the development of better and more innovative technology. From the best and newest cell phones, computers, eBooks, gaming systems, and iPods, advanced technology is hitting the world by storm.

One of our favorite electronic toys which constantly changes is the cell phone. Each year cell phones become more appealing to the eyes, and dig deeper into our pockets. For example, the iPhone 4 came out in August and were selling like hotcakes. Features that make the iPhone so popular are video calling, high resolution screen, video recording, and 5-megapixel camera. The iPhone can be found in most electronic stores including Best Buy, Wal-Mart, Radio Shack, and the official Apple store. The Price ranges from \$199 for a 16GB phone and \$299 for a 32GB phone.

Another gizmo made by the Apple corporation that had people racing to the nearest electronic store is the Mac Air laptop. In October 2010, Apple released a redesigned 13.3" model, with a new lighter enclosure, higher resolution screen, and an advanced capacity battery. The Mac Air is described as the "World's Thinnest Notebook." Mac Air is useful for people who constantly use their laptops and always have their laptop with them; as opposed to lugging around a heavy laptop, a thin lightweight one will be easier to manage. Pricing for the Macbook Air is as follows 11-inch: 64GB/\$999.00, 11-inch: 128GB/\$1,199.00, 13-inch: 128GB/ \$1,299.00, 13-inch: 256GB/\$1599.00

Since, Apple is dominating the electronic world we cannot forget to mention their famous iPods. As of September 10, the newest iPod touch fourth generation was available to the public. The iPod touch would definitely make an amazing stocking filler with its music capabilities, gaming, social networking, and even talking to people with its Facetime application. The most appealing aspect of this Mp3 player is its front facing camera. The iPod 4g is priced at \$299.

The newest Nook by Barnes and Nobles is a great gift for obsessive readers. The Nook appeals to a different demographic of electronic users because of its simple functions: an e-reader and internet access. The older model of the Nook came out in December 2009, but Barnes and Nobles debuted with the newest Nook color touch screen this November 16. Not only is it less costly to own a Nook as opposed to buying regular books, it's also environmentally sensible. The Nook is an ingenious gift for those family members or friends that always have their faces buried in a book. For those looking to buy the older model of the Nook there are two prices to go by, \$149 Wi-Fi or \$199 3g with Wi-Fi and the Nook color at \$249.

For all of you gamers out there that can't break away from your Xbox 360 long enough to read this article you'll miss out on a better gaming system. On June 2010 Microsoft unveiled an Xbox 360 redesigned from the ground up. Officially referred to as the "S" console, or Slim, it has a 250GB hard drive, built-in Wi-Fi, and a new design that's about 17 percent smaller than the previous models. The new Xbox, which costs \$300, can be found at Best Buy, GameStop, Wal-Mart, and Target.

This holiday is a wonderland of new technologies. Shopping for the perfect Christmas present only takes a trip to the nearest electronic store or a click of the mouse.



MAC Air Laptop

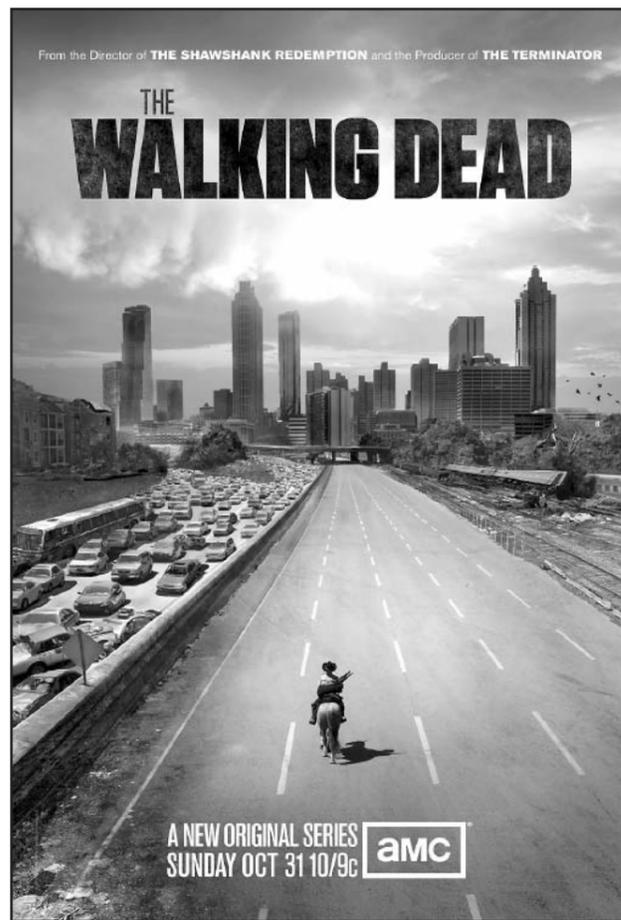


iPod 4g



Nook by Barnes and Nobles

XBOX 360 S-console



www.amc.com

'The Walking Dead': Worth surviving?

By Dylan Jones-Busch

During the AMC Fearfest, a zombie apocalyptic drama, "The Walking Dead," premiered on October 31. The show is based on the comic book series by Charlie Adlard, Robert Kirkman and Tony Moore and is directed and executive produced by Frank Darabont and Gale Anne Hurd. Darabont, former director of Stephen King's adaptation of "The Shawshank Redemption," and Hurd, who is known for producing "The Terminator," both have worked with violent content before, so they are not strangers to the gory substance of "The Walking Dead."

The first episode follows the main character, Rick Grimes, who wakes up from a coma in an abandoned hospital to a zombie apocalypse after being shot on duty. He immediately embarks on a journey to find his lost wife and son. During his search for his family Grimes encounters other sur-

vivors and battles hordes of zombies; also called "The Walkers." The plot involves the protagonist adapting to this new pandemonium. The origin of the Walkers and the apocalypse is never explained. If you are a sensitive viewer the gruesome scenes and excessive violence will be difficult to watch. The show avoids painful clichés of pop-up scares and focuses on visual terror.

The first episode of the show left viewers gripping their seats and biting their nails at graphic scenes such as bloodthirsty zombie's feasting on the living.

The first episode of the show left viewers gripping their seats and biting their nails at graphic scenes such as bloodthirsty zombie's feasting on the living.

The show runs about an hour's length and new episodes air every Sunday at 10PM.



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ARTS

Artist's Translation

By Joseph Rivera

The exhibition "Translations" by New Jersey City University Ceramics Professor Linda Casbon will be held in the Visual Arts Building from Nov. 10 - Dec. 14. Casbon's ceramic art work fills The Visual Arts Gallery with amazing geometric designs and shapes.

"Translations" holds 10 samples of Casbon's work, each made of low firing clay. "With low firing you get a bigger range on colors," Casbon said.

Casbon attended the University of Colorado as an undergraduate.

"As an undergraduate student, I was afraid to major in art. So I took Environmental Design, a pre-architect field. I knew I would regret it if I didn't try it, so I went for it," said Casbon.

Casbon took a creative approach when naming the ceramic pieces.

"I wanted the titles of my work to be a lit bit open-ended," said Casbon.

The piece that gets most of the attention is called "Screen." It is composed of long rod-like creations, similar to the appearance of octopus tentacles.

"Clay can be a lot of things, but I want it to be a different aspect," said Casbon about her art.

Clay is malleable to any extent, but what a sculptor wishes to achieve is to give physical aspects of symbolism, leaving hidden and bigger meanings.

"Ribbon," another eye capturing piece is located in back of the gallery. The piece features glazed clay strips in ribbon like shapes within a box. Also, it has a dark spot that works as the center of the artwork and helps viewers to stay grounded. Without its centering, viewers would be all over the place because of the scattered nature of the design.

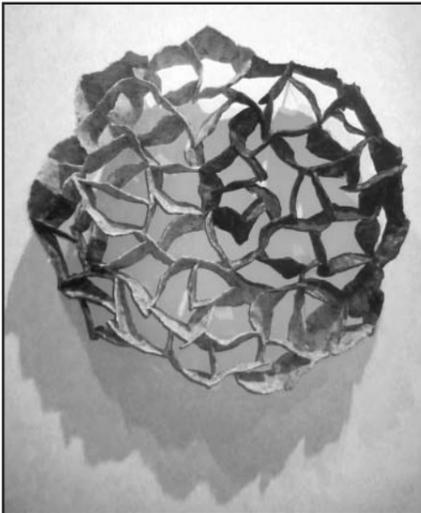
Another sculpture with a hidden meaning, "River," resembles a maze or cracks in a wall. "River" is actually, as Casbon said, "A 2-D version of Ribbon."

"Disc" according to one student thought it looked like a historic Spartan shield. Another student thought that "Disc" looked like the moon.

"Translations" is an exhibition shadowed in great mystery. Casbon without question has left her signature at NJCU's Visual Arts program.



River



Disc



Screen

Photos by Joseph Rivera



Ribbon

PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

Percussion majors bring the audience to their beat

By Dylan Jones-Busch

On November 20, percussion majors demonstrated their talents at the New Jersey City University Percussion Ensemble Concert.

"Its mostly modern music by living composers. We're doing an arrangement of a piece by Aram Khachaturian called "Saber Dance" based on the "Gayne Ballad," said Greg Giannascoli, NJCU Coordinator of Percussion Studies.

The stage held every percussion instrument available ranging from the snare drum to the xylophone. The show began with a piece "Momentum" by William Kraft beginning with an explosion of sounds fluctuating from loud to soft.

"We are doing a piece dedicated to three composers, Charles Ives, Henry Cowell and Edgar Varese," said NJCU Percussion student

Paul John Fragasso, "We are also doing a couple of show pieces that were composed by Aram Khachaturian, two pieces by Rolando Morales-Matos and another piece by Henry Cowell that has a lot of Eastern influence."

The ensemble performed "Ostinato Pianissimo" by Henry Cowell, a heavily-based oriental percussion piece that is played slowly and softly; a huge contrast from the last piece. The first half of the performance ended with "Ku-Ka-Illimoku" by Christopher Rouse. The piece draws its influence from the Hawaiian god of war, which explains the music's relentless onrushing beats and incredibly loud war-like sound.

The second half of the performance began with "Three Piece for Drum Quartet" by James Tenney that is made up three movements. The piece utilizes antiphonal sound, surround sound with the



Photo by Dylan Jones-Busch

drums being played on all corners of the room. Next was "Crown of Thorns," by David Maslanka where the music twists and turns in random fashion as the namesake plant that runs up and down the scale. The ensemble played

"Plena Linda" by Rolando Morales-Matos, one of our faculty members at NJCU. This is a Latin groove piece that lives up to its origin, putting the crowd in a trance. Finally to the end the night, the ensemble played "Saber

Dance," by Aram Khachaturian, a very well known piece made famous by the popular media, such as "The Simpsons" and "Family Guy." It was all played on xylophone exclusively playing that familiar fast-paced, chase-like tune.

ARTS

THEATRE

Romeo and Juliet: Two Star-Crossed Lovers Meet at NJCU

By Allison Lozada

Actors Shakespeare Company (ASC) performed Romeo and Juliet with a 6-member cast playing 19 roles, from November 5-21, 2010 at the West Side Theater. It was a promising show that had the audience hoping for a happy ending.



Romeo played by JC Vasquez from New York, captures the heart as one you sees everything that he must go through to stay with the love of his life. Danielle Tolles from New York City starred as Juliet, who is caught in the struggle between following her heart and submit to her father's wishes.

ASC has performed Romeo and Juliet twice in its 10-year run. ASC joined NJCU about five years ago and was honored at the New Jersey Theatre Alliance Awards Ceremony. They are funded by the New Jersey State Council and are a partner organization with the National Endowment for the Arts.

"The production will offer four student matinees to elementary through high school students from the Hudson County and surrounding areas," said Colette Rice, Producing Artistic Director and Play Master, "For many students, this is the first experience of live theatre and certainly for most of them, their first experience of Shakespeare."

Romeo and Juliet can be very relatable, "It is particularly poignant in light of recent suicides of [young] people who feel that their love is so unacceptable to their families and society that they have no choice but to take their own lives," said Rice.

According to njartsmaven, the show is a, "blend of Renaissance and contemporary costumes, music and style." Audiences had positive responses to the play, "I didn't think I would like it. My girlfriend dragged me to see it and I actually was hoping the ending would change and they'd be together," said Jake Miller, 23, from Bayonne.

Rice has very strong feelings about the play and is hopeful that it will remain a success. She added, "I always hope that people will be open enough to see a bit of ourselves in Shakespeare's characters and to reflect on our own lives just for a moment. Sometimes that moment can make a difference."

Laser Tag at NJCU

By Abdoulaye Camara

On Thursday, November 18, there was a Laser Tag event. No, not that kind of laser tag. This was a laser graffiti show where students could tag a wall with laser graffiti. Have you ever wanted to try graffiti, but didn't want to get beaten by the cops? Then you might want to try laser graffiti. Yudistir "Omar" Bechan, a photography major, coordinated this show, with the help of Jared Reyes and the Art and Design Association. It was an interactive event, where anyone could use the laser pointer and create their own graffiti tags on the projection screen. Also, there a band was playing in the background.

Interview with Yudistir "Omar" Bechan.

AC: What kind of artist are you?

YB: Well, my specialization is photography, but I like to do a little bit of everything.

AC: Were you always into art?

YB: I actually started out as an engineering major at NYIT, and then transferred to NJCU in 2008. I wanted to go to school for something I loved, not just for money. So, I changed my major to art.

AC: When did you discover your artistic talents?

YB: Never. I think it's something we all have. Even as a kid, we just scribble with crayons and it's a natural progression of creativity.

AC: What inspired you to do this show?

YB: I saw this idea a long time ago from a guy named Theodore Watson, who started the Graffiti Research Lab (GRL). I saw this video where they put laser graffiti on a building. They have a website and they encourage other people to do it too. The good thing about it is that it's not vandalism.

AC: Are there varying degrees to the complexity of the graffiti



you can create?

YB: Yeah, there are different colors and different brushes you can use. Basically, it can mimic anything a real spray paint can do. The one we have now is a watered down version. There are other versions that are more complex and can create better designs, but if we used it indoors, the light would overpower the laser that tracks the camera.

AC: Have you ever done this outside?

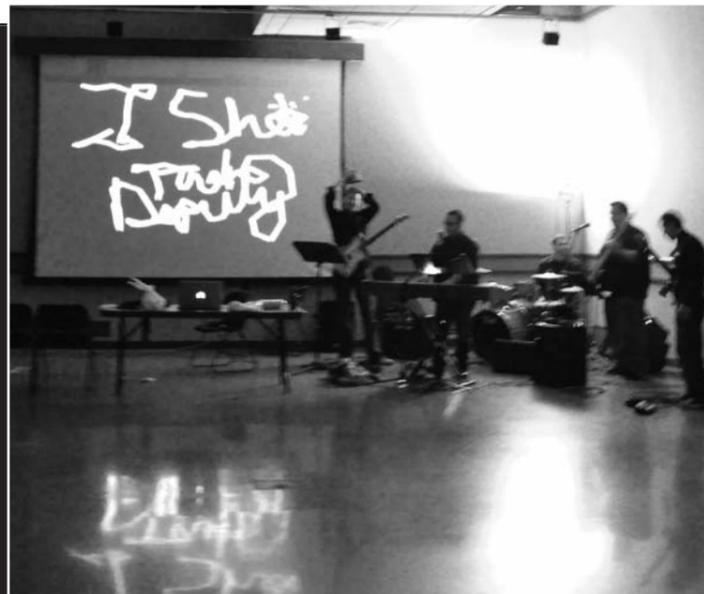
YB: Yea I tried it one time, guerilla warfare style, the way it was meant to be done. I didn't ask anybody, I just set it up and did it myself.

AC: How exactly does this laser graffiti work?

YB: There are four elements to it. There's a computer running the program, a camera that tracks the laser, a projector that shows the image, and a laser. The camera tracks the laser and transfers it to the program that creates the image that the projector then projects. Not only can it mimic real graffiti, but it can also create things that real graffiti can't. For instance, it can create an image that unravels and moves. That's something that can only be done in a digital realm.

AC: Are there any laser graffiti battles?

YB: Yes, there are battles, but they're more like friendly competitions. It's all about getting it out there where people can see it, not through traditional means, or watered-down means, but straight from the artist. And the battles do not promote violence



Photos by Panida Suwannawisut

because they're just friendly competitions to get more people involved.

AC: Where can we see more stuff like this?

YB: GRL website (www.graffiti-researchlab.com.)

AC: What do you want people to get from this show?

YB: Art doesn't necessarily have to be in a gallery. It's in the street all around you. Just open your eyes. There are a lot of talented street artists. A lot of people think it's just vandalism, but there's a lot of skill that goes into graffiti art. I also want people to know that NJCU has a great art program. Come to our shows, come to our openings, and just check it out.

**Who is the man behind the mask, that painted face and saddened eyes?**

By Claudia Severino

The January issue of *Instigatorzine* (<http://www.instigatorzine.com>) will feature the poetry of NJCU senior, Erick Perez. Two of Erick's poems, which exude the writing conventions of the Romantics, have been nominated to appear within the magazine by the editor-in-chief, and NJCU Senior, Keith Chiappone.

The Romantic period encompasses a movement in which writers, in particular, became more inclined to write based on their observations of, and relationship to nature. "We get a lot of modern poetry... but to receive a romantic-style poem is refreshing" stated Chiappone when asked about Perez's poems. With romantic poems such as "Eulogy to the Tree" and "Treading on Snow," the 24 year old writer decorously embodies the style of the popular literary movement.

During our interview, Perez discussed the intricate bond he has with his poetry: "I have a certain connection with my work and I feel that they are extensions of who I am or what I'm feeling." The eloquent but commanding poems possess a melancholic manner that envelopes readers and delivers a profound experience. True to the romanticism found within his poetry, when asked what provokes or inspires his writing, Perez stated "if it isn't some specific event that's happening in my life at the moment, it's usually the weather." He explains: "I think I focus on natural things (snow, rain, loss, indecision) because I see them as microcosms, almost, of our lives. Like, I can look into nature at any given moment and see at least one part of my life."

Beyond focusing on subject matter, Perez has challenged himself as a writer by changing form to fit meaning. In writing his

"Sonnet I," he states he "chose the sonnet [style] because of the subject matter: I knew I wanted to talk about rigid relationships and rules that aren't supposed to be broken. I literally say restrain which is something I feel is part of the whole sonnet experience... limiting yourself to meter and rhyme scheme as well as the amount of lines." He does so exquisitely in "Sonnet I" with lines such as these: "The floor between our toes is cold concrete. / Shoes glance over the great unmeasured plane," and "Yet strangers stand within this space we dread / While those we know and want we hold adverse."

"It feels extremely surreal... but I'm pretty excited," commented Perez on being published. Chiappone approached Perez to be a part of the *Instigatorzine* staff while also encouraging Perez to submit any works he may want to include in the magazine. Chiappone later commented on the

magazines method of choosing works to be published. He stated: "The way we choose our literature is entirely democratic. I read through all of the submissions myself, nominating works that I like or think others might like. The literary team then meets up and votes on what goes in. We publish one magazine per month."

The primary *Instigatorzine* staff which includes NJCU alumnus Madelynn Dela Rama and Kelly Cuenca (layout and design), Jenna Kildosher, Lisa Sofranko, Steven Gavrielatos, (editorial), Narciso Espiritu Jr, Elias Jimenez, Stephanie Herrera, Chazz Jogie (art), and now Erick Perez, have been devoted to publishing innovative short stories, poetry, plays, and artwork.

"Hopefully this is just the first step in many more to come in the path of getting my work out there," notes Perez in the excitement of realizing a dream.

BUSINESS

The Holiday Spirit is back

By Gabriel Cortés

Over recent years the holiday season has been a little less than merry for many consumers. With prices rising for commodities, utilities, groceries, and credit lines tight and dry consumers seemed hesitant to spend their hard earned cash. As a result, retailers suffered and the recession deepened.

This holiday season appears to be different, though. Many retailers look forward to Black Friday as the beginning of the seasonal shopping. The National Retail Federation reported that Black Friday sales were up from 2009. More than 212 million shoppers were estimated to hit the stores up from 195 million last year. NRF also reported that total spending this year was \$45 billion over the weekend with the average shopper having spent around \$365.

Apparently, consumers have finally learned their lesson. 16.3 percent of consumers used credit cards on Black Friday down from 30.9 percent in 2009, according to the survey by Ameri-

ca's Research Group and UBS. Shoppers preferred paying for their purchases with cash rather than credit during this past Black Friday weekend.

The holiday shopping season remains crucial for retailers like Wal-Mart, Best Buy, Target, and Macy's. Retailers look forward to this holiday season to increase

For many retailers the November/December holiday shopping season represents up to 40 percent of their revenue for the year. This year seems favorable for retailers as consumers have returned to the shopping malls. As consumer confidence increases the economic expectations for the country start to brighten up.

"It is the consumer that holds the key to the recovery, and it looks like households are starting to turn the lock"

Joel Naroff
Economist

profits before the year ends. "Households are spending more, and that might signal that they are starting to feel better about economic conditions," said economist Joel Naroff of Naroff Economic Advisors. "It is the consumer that holds the key to the recovery, and it looks like households are starting to turn the lock," Naroff added.

Consumer spending has been backed by bigger paychecks. Americans' incomes rose 0.5 percent in October, as a result of a 0.6 percent rise in wages and salaries up from zero growth in September, reported the Commerce Department. Consequently, consumer spending grew 0.4 percent in October, up from a 0.3 percent increase in September.

As consumers have learned hard lessons from this recession, it is expected they will not be spending their money carelessly and will not rely on credit cards as heavily as before. Americans



have learned to be prudent in times of austerity. The savings rate for the country have rose to 5.7 percent in October compared to 1 percent before the recession. According to an Associated Press-GfK Poll, Americans are more likely to pay off their credit-card balances right away than they were last year, and fewer say they make credit card purchases if they lack enough money at the time.

Retail sales are expected to rise compared to past years as a result of an improved consumer sentiment. As consumers return to the stores this holiday season, they return as smart consumers. Family, friends, and the memorable moments to be enjoyed will be the priority for Americans this holiday season.

Now Hiring: Part-time Part-timers

By Monir Khilla

With the holiday season officially underway with Black Friday, many consumers are scrambling to get the best deals on products they want under the Christmas tree; whether theirs or not. However, the best deals to really look for are the "part-time part-time jobs." As unemployment is tinkering around 9% nationally and in New Jersey, looking for a job has, itself, become a full-time job.

Students are facing financial problems everyday and their savior has come in a form most may not recognize right away: Holiday Jobs.

Whether it's a job affiliated with your major or just a part-time job over the holiday season, many students are willing to work temporary jobs, sacrificing their breaks just to make a few extra dollars. As the costs of the Spring Semester; books; school supplies; and parking/commuting are going up, the appeal of holiday jobs have turned into more of a requirement for students.

All told, U.S. companies will hire an estimated 600,000 temporary workers this holiday season, according to outplacement firm Challenger, Gray & Christmas Inc. as reported by ABC News. Companies like UPS, Amazon, and Toys R Us are hiring 50,000, 15,000 and 45,000 workers, respectively, this holiday season.

These part-time part-timers are hoping to turn their holiday jobs into something that many people and this economy need right now: full time jobs. When it comes to the frantic disarray of Black Friday lines (ever been shoved or knocked to the ground while shopping?), last minute shopping, and gift returning, retailers have hired 600,000 temporary employees to better ease the burden of this quasi shopping war better reducing the collateral damage of competitive consumerism (all civilian casualties).

What do NJCU students think about working Holiday jobs? Would you work one? Hector Rivera, 22 a Criminal Justice major from Hillside says "Absolutely, with no doubt." When asked if he would give up his break to work he said, "With no hesitation."

Sarah Caldwell 19, a Sociology major from Newark says "Yes! I need the money. I like to go shopping. I don't like to ask my parents, I'm in college now so I need the money for myself."

Sasha Herrera 22, a Psychology major from Orlando, FL differs saying "I wouldn't work a holiday job because it's only for such a short period of time and when you do your resume, you put a job you've only worked for a month it doesn't look too good. So, I'd rather not do it." When asked what her primary reason for not working Sasha says, "I'd rather spend the time with my family than work."

Though some students would rather take their holiday break to play Call of Duty: Black Ops or sip on some eggnog, others are putting on the good ole' smock and stocking shelves at Toys R Us; or filling up trucks at UPS. Whether holiday jobs are your thing or not, employers are having no problems hiring workers this holiday season. If you're looking for some extra cash to help pay for books, or buy a semester long pass to the parking garage, a part-time part-time job may be the answer to your financial questions.

Economics not just a class

By Haneen Salem

As New Jersey City University students prepare to enter the workforce the Economics Department provides real world and academic experience on the current state of the economy.

"Economics is relevant to everyone's life because it plays a major role with taxes, the government, and politics," said Aurora Estevez, 20, Economic Major, from Bayonne.

The study of economics analyzes the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services. Every aspect of one's life is affected by economics, whether it's shopping at the mall or dealings going on in the U.S Treasury.

"Economics is the science of choices. If you have more of one thing you have less of another and vice versa. It's a study about the allocation of scarce resources," according to Dr. Harris Hordon, Professor of Economics and Department Chair.

Take our current economic situation for example. We are currently facing economic uncertainty. The unemployment rate is currently 9.6%. The national debt of the country is 13 trillion dollars.

With all the problems in the economy today the study of economics does come in handy. The Economics Program at NJCU began in 1968, and currently offers a B.A in economics that opens many doors to a variety of professional careers.

"Economics is a good [way to prepare] for careers in business, government, and teaching. It is a highly regarded degree," said Dr. Hordon

"When I graduate I intend to continue my studies and pursue a graduate degree. When that goal is achieved I hope to be employed somewhere in the finance sector," said Ricardo

Figueroa, 20, Economics Major, of Union City.

The economics department at NJCU offers numerous classes and provides a flexible program of study that allows students to choose elective courses that are most relevant to their individual career and academic goals.

Some of the classes offered include Introduction to Economics, Principles of Economics, Macro Money and Banking, Investment Principles, and International Trade and Finance, with the objective of understanding how to maximize the level of income, promote economic growth, and raise the standard of living for people.

"The economic professors are a mix of different characters and personalities, each of the courses is informative and challenging," said Figueroa.

The current economics department chair, Dr. Harris Hordon, has been working at NJCU as a professor and now director for 41 years. He received his Ph.D in Economics when he was 26 from New York University.

"Our goal is to provide our students with relevant and high quality economics program studies," said Dr. Hordon.

Popular Jobs for Economics Degree are:

- Financial Analyst
- Staff Accountant
- Finance/Banking Business Analyst
- Economist
- Data Analyst
- Financial Advisor
- Investment Analysts
- Business/Process Management Consultant
- Financial Research Analyst
- Marketing Analyst
- Marketing Manager
- Financial Consultant
- Market Research Analyst
- Real Estate Analyst



Photo credit by Google Imagesx

Economic Indexes

Consumer Price Index:
+0.2% in Oct 2010

National Unemployment Rate:
9.6% in Oct 2010

New Jersey Unemployment Rate:
9.2% in Oct 2010

Payroll Employment:
+151,000(p) in Oct 2010

Average Hourly Earnings:
+\$0.05(p) in Oct 2010

Producer Price Index:
+0.4%(p) in Oct 2010

Employment Cost Index:
+0.4% in 3rd Qtr of 2010

Productivity:
+2.3% in 3rd Qtr of 2010

U.S. Import Price Index:
+0.9% in Oct 2010

Source: <http://www.bls.gov/>

SPORTS

Last Minute Defeats have the Gothic Knights Looking to Rebound

By Alberto Arias and Carolina Garcia

The New Jersey City University Gothic Knights basketball team battled the Rutgers-Newark Scarlet Raiders in a thrilling triple over-time game on Wednesday, December 1, 2010. They suffered a tough loss, in a 2 point defeat (118-116) during their home opener at the John J. Moore Athletics and Fitness Center.

The Knights home opener was their first New Jersey Athletic Conference game of the season. The game was nothing less than a classic. It was a game of attrition as both teams went back and fourth for three and a half hours. In their defeat, senior guard Da'Shon Barrino, scored 25 points, had six rebounds, and five steals coming off the bench. Transfer junior point guard Keith Williams 21, Business Management, of Jersey City, led all scorers with 28 points, while adding six assists and four steals with only two turnovers the entire game.

"I was hurt. At anytime anyone can lose and win in this conference. This loss is only going to make us a stronger team" said Williams, 21, a Business Administration major at New Jersey City University.



Photo by NJCU Athletics

Gothic Knights Men's Basketball Team

The disappointing loss was the team's third defeat as they fall to 1-3. In each of their defeats the team has lost by no more than four points. These heart wrenching losses were games where they have had leads of 15 or more at half time. Being able to put away games has become an obstacle for this team with so much talent.

When junior small forward, Taquan Abdullah 20, Accounting, of Kenilworth was asked about his thoughts on the game he said, "It was rough. We were all discouraged and didn't say much afterwards in the locker room. We felt like we let ourselves, our

fans, and our coaches down."

Abdullah, who is one of the tallest players on the team standing at 6'7, is the team's representative for the Student Athletic Advisory Committee. The purpose of the SAAC committee is so that all NJCU teams stay well connected and speak upon any concerns on their teams.

The prolific three point shooter, Abdullah, has turned into one of the vocal leaders on the team. He admits that they have a lack of energy after the half, and they need to maintain that spark after the half.

Abdullah said "the team chemistry is stronger now. We just

have to play harder and learn how to finish off games stronger. We are not letting these losses get in our way. Coach Brown tells us to treat every game like it's our last one. We just have to keep playing hard."

The Gothic Knights are entering this season with a strong fifteen man roster in which seven are transfers. Within those transfers, there are some highly touted Division 1 transfers. The majority of the Gothic Knight's conference games will take place next semester, and we will be able to see who has heart as they compete for the NJAC championship.

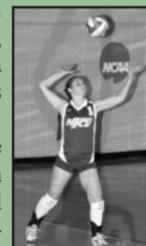
Assisting History

By Kelsey O'Donnell

Recently Senior Women's volleyball Co-Captain, Alex Johanesen, placed herself in NJCU history books by becoming the all-time leader in assists.

"I was never big on stats until I heard that I was close to reaching the assist record and then I made it my goal for my senior year," said Johanesen, a 21-year old Journalism major from Bridgewater, New Jersey.

Johanesen entered a game against City College of New York being only 12 assists short of the original record of 2,677, set by Nadia DaSilva Ducos (2004-2007). She ended the tri-match with 32 assists and became the all-time leader in the program's 28 year history.



By Dan Formica
Alex Johanesen taking a serve.

When asked about the level of pressure when reaching the record, Johanesen said, "The pressure was great during the middle of the season because I was further away from the record and did not know how many assists I would get per game. As I got closer, it was more a feeling of satisfaction that I knew I would achieve my goal."

Johanesen attended Bridgewater-Raritan High School. She feels her biggest accomplishment was being state and tournament champions during her sophomore year.

"[Those are] two things that mean [the] most to me," said Johanesen.

Johanesen ended her career with NJCU women's volleyball with individual NJAC accomplishments. She's No. 14 in NJAC history with total assists; in 2008 she won the NJAC player of the week, and in 2007 she was NJAC Rookie Player of the Week.

She wrapped up her NJCU career with 2,750 assists and finished with a .301 career assist percentage. For the first time in her career she earned All Conference honors for the 2010 season.

"I will definitely miss the competitive collegiate games and the people I got the opportunity to play with from freshman year up to my senior year," said Johanesen.

Johanesen doesn't plan on playing volleyball professionally, but she does have other plans in mind. She said, "I plan on playing club volleyball and beach volleyball. I would also like to coach. As far as a career, I plan on getting my masters to be a technical writer."



Photo by Richard Formica

Alex Johanesen taking a serve.



Photo by Richard Formica

Alex Johanesen setting up for a return.

Leading in the Right Direction: Q&A with Coach Kolonji

By Charlie Hernandez

Nansha Kolanji, second year men's soccer coach discussed the teams challenging season and what has to be done to reach success.

Kolanji was born in Belgium and came into the states at the age of 15, where he attended James J. Ferris high school in Jersey City, NJ. Coach Kolanji's ties with Jersey City gives him the ability to relate to the players on a personal level. Not to mention the display of character and commitment by coming back to his city and working for NJCU.

What many don't know is that he didn't get a chance to recruit his first season and having inexperienced players is a tall order in itself. However the Gothic Knights showed signs of their potential with a few wins.

Q. Why was the team's season so disappointing? What positives did you get from it?

A. A lot of the players never played together. Along with injuries as well as having a young core, it leads to a lack of leadership and camaraderie. These setbacks never really allowed for the team to build chemistry. On the bright side all players are to return along with recruiting expectations for the upcoming year. Making the playoffs will be bit more realistic. We went to a tournament last year against Carolina. We lost 5-0 and this year we only lost 1-0 and we also went to another tournament where we played against the number 6 team in the country and we barely lost to



Photo by Richard Formica

Gothic Knights Men's Soccer Team

them 1-0. Right of the bat the injuries came into play and it became hard trying to put everyone together. That's a huge difference! By the time they get match fit your looking at 2 to 3 games if not four games in to the conference. I am not down because most likely were getting everyone back because we had no seniors.

Q. What are the team's expectations?

A. I felt like we worked extremely hard in recruiting a new class and our expectations were obviously to get into the postseason. When recruiting you're looking at putting six or seven guys whom never played together before. You're expecting them to achieve our goals at the same time you're expecting them to gel and build chemistry which will take some time. We also ran into injuries and minor setbacks that didn't allow us to get to the level we wanted. So we started off the season pretty well but ran into many bumps along the road.

Q. Explain the difference of having a young core as opposed to veterans with experience?

A. It takes time, you cannot teach experience. I'll give you a perfect example in another sport of what's going on with the Lakers. They have a winning coach who has experience who knows how to win. The Kobe Bryant of today and the Kobe Bryant of the Lakers when he first came into the league you could



Photo by Richard Formica

Coach Nansha Kolanji coaching the Gothic Knights.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:

- Head Coach, New Jersey City University, 2009-present
- Head Coach, Rutgers-Newark, 2004-06
- Assistant Coach, Ramapo College, 2006-09, 1998-99
- Assistant Coach, Greensboro College, 2002-04
- Played six seasons professionally, most notably with New York Red Bulls of Major League Soccer in 1999

not teach him the experience of losing and getting his butt whooped year after year. He suddenly becomes a player who no longer is worried about stats, he's no longer worried about dunking on people, he's no longer worried about being in front of a magazine, his one and only goal is I want to win a championship. Then you have the freshmen who come in and want to be the one that everybody recognizes. Then you have the seniors who are like I want to go to the NCAA's. I want to go out with a bang. Freshman look at their three years as having fun on the other hand and then you have juniors and seniors wanting to compete and be more focused. Juniors and seniors recognize that this is it for them especially seniors who lay it all on the line.