

# THE GOTHIC TIMES

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## Class Cuts, Protests and Tensions Arise at NJCU

### Union Fires Back at Administration

By Monir Khilla

The Fall 2011 semester has been a turbulent semester for the New Jersey City University (NJCU) community. There was an informational picketing held November 14th on John F. Kennedy Blvd. that, for the first time, brought together all three NJCU unions: AFT Local 1839, CWA Local 1031, and IPTE Local 195.

The picketing was in response to class cuts by the administration and funding cuts by the state. Students and Union members also expressed concerns over tuition increases.

Dr. William Calathes, Executive Vice President of Local 1839 and Professor of Criminal Justice said that "This informational Picketing was an unprecedented display of the NJCU community. It brought together over 400 students, as well as members from the three campus-wide unions."

On the importance of the picketing, Dr. Calathes stated that "This informational picketing is critical because in wake of continued State defunding and non-support from the administration, the NJCU community is stepping



Photo by Jersey Journal © used with permission

Unions and students picketing on Kennedy Boulevard.

up to have its voices heard."

Malcolm Eddington, 22, National Security Studies major from Jersey City said "I'm here to support AFT Local 1839 and to put the administration on notice that raising tuition isn't the way

to solve any problems."

When asked what message he would send to Trenton, Eddington said "When it comes to education, stop the shenanigans."

Other students expressed similar views.

Sean Wilson, 22, Criminal Justice major from Jersey City said "I'm here to protest for students and faculty over budget cuts. Both have been affected by these cuts."

Wilson believes that "There

"This informational picketing was an unprecedented display of the NJCU community. It brought together over 400 students, as well as members from the three campus-wide unions."

Dr. William Calathes,  
Executive Vice President,  
Local 1839 and  
Professor of Criminal Justice

should be equality for students and faculty," and that he supports the informational picketing because, "We need to bring awareness so students can come together and fight the common cause that affects us students and faculty."

Wilson also said that if he had one message to send to Trenton it would be to "Step in the shoes of a working-class student who can't afford an education. They

Continued on page 11

## NJCU's first Doctorate: One of a kind

By Monir Khilla

Starting January 2012 New Jersey City University (NJCU) will be offering their first doctorate program within the Professional Securities Department. The new degree is a Doctorate of Science in Civil Security in Leadership, Management, and Policy.

Dr. Tsung Y. (Bill) Soo Hoo, Associate Professor and former department chair, as well as Dr. John Collins, Acting Department Chair and Professor, spoke with the *Gothic Times* about how the department has evolved from a retail security subprogram in 2002 to NJCU's Professional Securities Department in 2007.

Dr. Soo Hoo said that "Our department has grown to the point where we have close to 500 majors, compared to when I first came here in January 2002 where we had only one person that was a National Securities major. We will be offering classes in the doctorate program beginning in July and already have a wait-list of close to 300



Seal of National Security Agency nsa.gov

students, including some adjunct faculty, as well."

The new Doctorate Of Science will make NJCU's National Security Studies program the first in the state. NJCU will be one of a handful of schools in the entire country to be offering this doctorate.

Despite major cuts in state aid to college universities, Dr. Collins stated that "The new program is meant to be self-contained and self-sufficient so we don't have any budget issues coming up. We knew we weren't going to get a lot of help from the state, so we needed some-

thing that was self-sustaining so students can see that it wouldn't be taking any money from their programs."

According to Dr. Collins and Dr. Soo Hoo, what makes NJCU's National Security Studies program unique is its focus on leadership, management, and policy. Every university offering the same program or degree focus primarily on the science and technology aspects of security.

Dr. Collins further said that "If we have good enrollment, we would actually be giving money back to the school."

With a wait-list of 300 students and the program only offering a maximum of 35 spots, competition to get into the program will be tough.

Dr. Collins said "We had to think this all through. The selection will be based on GPA and they must have at least ten years of experience in security."

The department focuses on three main aspects of security: national security, corporate security, and information security.

Continued on page 11

## AN OPPOSING VIEW

### Christmas? Bah humbug!

By Francis A. Wilson

Now don't get me wrong - Christmas is a wonderful time of the year. I just hate this particular time of the year. The freaking snow is a pain, the damn carolers are annoying as hell, and that jolly old



Saint Nick never seems to get my letters.

Christmas used to be a wonderful time, a time when a kid could get all of the outrageous toys he or she wanted, and mommy and daddy could break their backs to get all of the goods for the ungrateful little ankle biters, but no more.

This holiday now stands for consumerism, and not the good kind of moderate consumerism

Continued on page 11

## In this issue of The Gothic Times...

### News 2-4

Union fires back at administration  
Students Unite and be heard  
Student Council approves \$30K  
Tune in to WGKR Radio  
Give a Chance sponsors ESL program  
Study abroad contribution raises concerns  
Award-winning Journalist at NJCU  
Gifts from the heart: helping families

### Lifestyle 5

Hot spots for New Year's Eve  
Representing your roots  
Retail healing!

### Arts & Entertainment 6-7

Theatre Reviews  
Book Review

### Video Games Reviewed

### Features 8

Frat strikes the right chord  
Jan Auilos, SGO VP of Public Information  
Rooms are alive with the sound of music

### Opinion / Advice 9-10

Let the beat STOP!  
The American nightmare  
Dear Santa

Student protests only the tip of the iceberg  
Urban City meets Urban Class  
Toss out the cheat sheets!

### Sports 12

Women's Basketball  
Coach of the Year Rob Bielan  
Walter Avans

## NEWS

# Union Fires Back at Administration Over Remarks

By Monir Khilla

In an exclusive interview with the Gothic Times, AFT Local 1839 executive members - the union that represents faculty and staff - responded to comments made by Aaron Aska, Vice President of Administration and Finance, in the November issue of the *Gothic Times*.

According to Dr. Ivan Steinberg, Professor of Economics and President of AFT Local 1839, the remarks were erroneous and they "violated the spirit of an agreement that took place years ago by the council of New Jersey state college locals and representatives of state colleges. Our Vice President [of administration and finance] has broken this long-term unwritten agreement."

Dr. William Calathes, Professor of Criminal Justice and Vice President of AFT Local 1839 said that "Vice President Aska, in a way in his comments, is doing something massively unethical. He's attacking collective bargaining rights; by him taking a position publicly he's undermining the credibility of the current negotiations by suggesting the mechanisms for these negotiations are something that will no longer exist. He's selling faculty and students down the river by suggesting it would be better to have a break-up of the Unions."

"That is utterly incorrect," Aska said, responding to Steinberg's Calathes' charges, "nothing I said has a bearing on collective bargaining. We did say salaries are

negotiated, that is factual. My interview was with a student who was trying to understand the budget process."

In a now-controversial interview with the *Gothic Times*, published November 16, 2011, Aska said, "Salary costs compromise approximately two-thirds of the total budget. In the contract that the union negotiated they have built in increases. This has nothing to do with the university, the

*"[His remarks] violated the spirit of an agreement that took place years ago by the council of New Jersey state college locals and representatives of state colleges."*

**Dr. Ivan Steinberg  
President of AFT Local 1839**

state negotiated that with the union. They are localizing those contracts, but we're not there yet. So our contracts are not different than Montclair or Kean. They're all a product of collective bargaining."

Dr. Steinberg and Calathes both agreed that "Vice President Aska should apologize to every member of the union for his comments."

"I don't think I said anything that merits an apology," Aska said.

"I met with Ivan Steinberg for half an hour last week, none of this came up. He expressed concerns, in general, but nothing specific."

With questions, proposals, and cuts to education, why can't the school can't negotiate with the unions directly?

Dr. Steinberg explained that this would put many schools at a disadvantage because some don't have a large student body. The smaller schools would not be able to attract professors and there would be a bidding-war if colleges would pick individual salaries. Professors in certain departments would make more than others.

The budget strain NJCU is facing has raised questions over how the budget is handled and how money is being allocated and appropriated.

"The Union has serious concerns regarding the administration's mismanagement of the budget. There's no accounting of the revenue losses that are going to take place as a result of the upcoming cuts in the Winter intersession, Spring, and Summer classes," said Dr. Calathes.

"There was a precipitous drop in enrollment which affected revenue. The mistake they made was 'next year will be better,'" said Dr. Steinberg.

Many students have gotten word of cuts to their classes, and some students have even been dropped from classes they're already enrolled in. There will be cuts to classes and sections, but none to the administration.



AFT.org

"One of my concerns is that if you combine sections, many students who schedule their classes around work will end up dropping the class and prolong their graduation," said Dr. Gordon, Professor and Chairperson of the Health Sciences Department.

According to Dr. Calathes, "I don't see any cuts in anything in the administration. If I was a student I'd be upset over not being notified until the end of the semester, especially after there are classes being cut that students are already enrolled in, the administration is not participating in this shared sacrifice. The faculty here took the hit on the furloughs. We had to have mandated furloughs while the administration had much less. They refuse to sit-down with us and talk about the shared sacrifice."

Dr. Gail Gordon added that "The CWA, the lowest paid union, had to take ten days of furloughs it was ridiculous."

Dr. Calathes went on saying "Have the administrators given up their courses? It not only hurts students when you cut courses but you take advantage of the most exploited group on this campus,

adjunct professors, who are underpaid and contribute financially to the school."

Vice President Aska also encouraged students to call and lobby their state legislatures, but according to Dr. Calathes, the administration has done nothing to help students and unions.

"AFT folks have been down in Trenton all summer long, along with students, I didn't even see one administrator there. The students have a right to know what the administration has done in their relationship to the state to lobby and advocate for this campus," said Calathes. "Have the administrators given up their courses? It not only hurts students when you cut courses but you take advantage of the most exploited group on this campus, adjunct professors, who are underpaid and contribute financially to the school," said Dr. Calathes.

Through all the tension and exchanged words, the union does agree that there have to be talks with the administration, as well as students.

Dr. Calathes said that "The students, the unions, and the administration should work together. There shouldn't be a hierarchy where somebody says we have to have tuition raises and cut courses and pretend the chairs are cutting courses. We took the union and student position that nobody should cut a course unless they're told to do so. Maybe they've been doing the best they can, but we need them to work with the unions."

## Students Unite and Be Heard!

By Atilla Amazi

Students leaders representing numerous public universities convened at Rutgers-Newark for a New Jersey United Students meeting. The organization approved a probationary constitution and discussed ways of mobilizing students throughout the state.

According to the organization's Facebook page, their mission statement reads: "As student leaders we work to educate, advocate, and empower students both within our universities and communities. In solidarity with all struggling public institutions, we the past, present and future students of New Jersey unite!"

NJUS is a coalition of public state colleges and universities, as well as community colleges, which advocate the interests of students for higher education. Currently, no organization like it exists in which the voices of all the state school students are integrated into a single discourse that aims to create a united front for student education improvement and is represented by students.

Cabo Granato, 26, a Political Science major of Rutgers, Newark and interim co-chair of NJUS said some of the focal goals of the coalition are to slash tuition hikes, increase funding for higher education, and create a student proposed higher education council.

Granato added, "[We] want to enact change today to improve

the state of higher education for students tomorrow."

John Aspray, interim co-chair, an alumnus of the New Brunswick campus of Rutgers, and one of the founding members of the organization said, "When [I] and some of my colleagues at Rutgers [New Brunswick] set out to found NJUS, we envisioned an organization that can effectively advocate for students in Trenton, as well as mobilize students for actions on our local campuses to hold our University administrations accountable. So far, I think we've been doing well in approaching that vision.

"On April 13th, 2011, we had our first big action, which was a statewide "Day of Action" around education on 8 campuses. In New Brunswick we had a 600-person Walk Out; at Rowan, Teach-in and petition drive where 10 percent of the school signed on to freeze tuition; at Rutgers Newark, a legislative phone bank to call legislators in Trenton."

The most imminent of all of the agendas was the review, evaluation, and vote on the adoption of the NJUS constitution. Although a composed draft of the constitution has been available since June, most campus representatives examined it for the first time.

It was emphatically stressed that the constitution was temporary and would be voted on again in an upcoming meeting. This

appeased some concerns that there were only five campuses being represented in the summit—all three of Rutgers campuses, Montclair, and NJCU—out of the 12 public colleges and universities and 18 community colleges of the state.

The Constitutional draft was written by Brian Block from TCNJ, and Laura Hahn from Ramapo. From preamble to the final article, consisting of eight in total, the thoroughly composed document covered all bases.

All five present campuses, out of the 16 total currently participating, voted unanimously to adopt the probationary constitution.

Following the approval of the constitution, the attention was then turned to electing executive officials to carry out various tasks for the organization. Of the 11 possible positions available, the New Brunswick campus of Rutgers held most with four.

Our campus was represented by Rafal Rogoza, 25, Political Science major of Jersey City and Jan Arguilos, 24, Media Arts & Political Science major of Seacacus.

Last order of business was planning for upcoming initiatives such as outreach programs to encourage and widen the level of participation as well as the next "Day of Action."

Aspray said the association should look to partner with teacher's unions and progressive education unions alike, using the



Photo by NJUS

success of the Rutgers One coalition in New Brunswick as an example.

A testament to student action making impact is evident from last April's "Walk into Action" where students walked out of classes in the support of lower tuition prices.

Rutgers One also organized a sit-in where students occupied Rutgers President Richard L. McCormick's office with eight demands, including a demand for no tuition increase. The sit-in put pressure on the Board of Governors, which resulted in a tuition increase to be cut in half, Aspray said.

The goal for NJUS is to create a similar coalition that represents all colleges and universities statewide. Student unity and action has proven to be successful, Granato said.

"I believe that, when it comes down to it, people really do care about the quality and availability of higher education in New Jersey. There are currently over 400,000 students enrolled in in-

*"Students can't afford to not work with other students from universities across the state. There's a crisis of leadership among politicians in New Jersey, and simply put, they haven't made education the priority it should be."*

**John Aspray, co-chair,  
New Jersey United Students**

stitutions of higher education across New Jersey." Aspray added, "And these institutions, which serve a substantial portion of the state, are in crisis. New Jersey is 50th in the nation for funding higher education. We're last."

When asked why anyone should participate in NJUS, Aspray replied, "Students can't afford to not work with other students from universities across the state. There's a crisis of leadership among politicians in New Jersey, and simply put, they haven't made education the priority it should be. They've failed to invest in the future of the State. We want to help show them that this is an error. And I think that if we can make some of the right arguments and show we can fund our schools, they'll pay attention. Having a lot of pissed off students standing behind us doesn't hurt, either."

NEWS

# Student Council approves \$30K to depleted E-Board budget

By Rafal Rogoza

Student Council approved a transfer of \$30,000 to the Student Government Executive Board during the November 14 student council meeting. The transfer of funds angered some members of the student council who claim the Executive Board is spending money recklessly on trips that do not benefit the student body as a whole.

"I do not think the SGO (Student Government Organization) is responsible in spending our money. They are supposed to help create programs and workshops for the general student body, instead they have spent the money on other unnecessary expenses," said Brian Flores, 21, business marketing major from Ridgefield Park and treasurer of the Model UN Club.

The additional \$30,000 is

needed for the Executive Board to provide basic services such as supplies and food for student government events. The Executive Board requested approval of the transfer after exhausting most of its \$77,000 budget. A majority of the money was spent on a student council summer retreat in the Poconos, a leadership conference in Miami, and a controversial donation to the India study abroad trip.

According to Aurora Estevez, SGO VP of Finance, the \$30,000 won't be spent in its entirety.

"The \$30,000 is not something we're going to spend. I didn't want to have to keep going to the finance committee and keep asking for money when we need it," said Estevez.

The student council overwhelmingly voted in favor of the transfers with 27 council members voting for it, four against,

and one abstaining. According to Estevez, the additional money will be taken out of the SGO contingency fund which has a surplus of money.

Increased student enrollment and an insurance settlement from the Moody court case increased revenue by \$196,000. All students contribute to the budget when they pay their student ac-

*"They are supposed to help create programs and workshops for the general student body, instead they have spent the money on other unnecessary expenses."*

**Brian Flores,**  
Business Marketing major

tivities fee.

"I trust the Executive Board, they are our elected representatives. They're looking out for the student body's best interest," said Frank Fernandez, 29, environmental science major and Geo Club President from Jersey City who voted in favor of the motion.

Samantha Nunez, 21, history major and President of the Salsa Club from Jersey City also supported the motion.

"The clubs need the money, they (Executive Board) were telling us they only had \$4,000. We need money for open house and other events like club day," said Nunez.

Estevez feels the complaints by some council members are baseless because they haven't attended finance committee meetings.

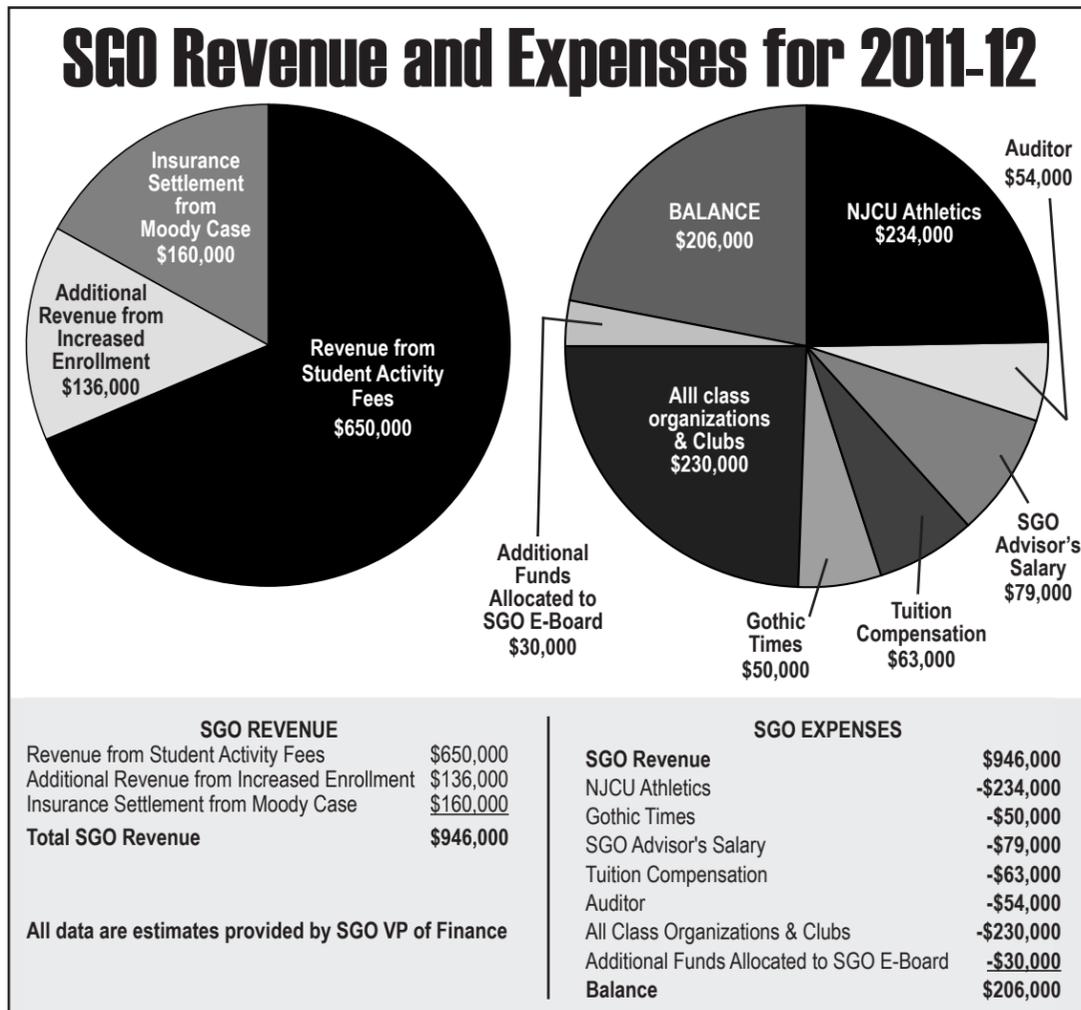
"They don't do anything and that's what gets me mad. If you

have all this energy to complain then have that energy to work with us and do something about it," said Estevez.

Sean Wilson, 22, criminal justice major and President of the Free Thinkers Society from Jersey City, voted against the motion and believes that finance committee meetings need to encourage more debate.

"I find them to be lacking in transparency. Most votes are pushed through with very little comment from dissenting points of view," said Wilson.

Flores expressed similar views, "As a treasurer for GK Films last semester, I attended these meetings to understand and learn how our money is spent. I have also attended meetings this semester, but it is disheartening seeing other treasurers who do not care about the issues and only attend because the meeting is mandatory."



## WGKR RADIO

# Tune in to campus

By Monir Khilla

New Jersey City University's Gothic Knight Radio Station recently received funding in order to begin broadcasting to the campus community. Justin Browning, 20, Media Arts major from Sayreville became the newly-elected General Manager of WGKR and talked about what the money is meant to be used for.

Browning said that "WGKR received a \$4,000 budget from SGO this semester. This money will be used for updating all equipment possible as well as give us the ability to get anything needed for future events we would like to throw."

Many familiar shows will be returning to WGKR, with the addition of new ones as well. Browning noted that "As of right now we have three returning shows titled 'Happy Hour,' a rock show, 'Know Homo,' and 'Speech LOUD Radio,' a hip hop show. We look to add on at least three new shows for the upcoming



Courtesy of WGKR

semesters."

Money alone won't keep the radio station running, but support from students and listeners will help keep WGKR operating. "In order to be a part of WGKR a student would need the ambition and willingness to learn how to do any job the station needs and they are interested in doing," said Browning.

Listeners can listen and call-in at 201-200-3556. Once up and fully running students can listen at [live365.com/profiles/wgkr](http://live365.com/profiles/wgkr) or view the show by going to [ustream.tv/user/wgkrnj](http://ustream.tv/user/wgkrnj).

# Give a Chance Foundation sponsors ESL program

By Rafal Rogoza

The Samuel Guzman Give a Chance Foundation hosted a fundraiser for impoverished schools at O'Abbey's Pub & Grill on November 19. All donations will help fund an ESL program in El Salvador.

"Our main goal is to open a vocational workshop school in my dad's hometown," said Sheny Guzman, 22, international business major from Jersey City. "We're trying to start small and build a track record of what we do by sponsoring schools in poverty with ESL programs."

All the proceeds collected by the Foundation are going to fund English classes in the Instituto Nacional General Juan Orlando Zepeda, a vocational school teaching nursing and accounting.

The Foundation coordinated with the Universidad Monsenor Romero in El Salvador to make this project possible. With the addition of English lessons into the curriculum students would be able to apply for work abroad and in El Salvador, according to Sheny.

"We'll assist the nursing students to fly



Photo by Sheny Guzman

Students in class at Instituto Nacional General Juan Orlando Zepeda, El Salvador.

to Canada and work in orphanages and nursing homes. The accounting students on the other hand, there are more than 500 positions available in call centers in El Salvador, once they speak the language (English) we're going to assist them with secure job placement in these call centers," said Sheny.

The ESL program will be available for

two years, 10 months a year and will teach 325 students. The funds will cover instructor and administrative costs.

Sheny decided to create the Foundation after a conversation with a pastor on a trip back from Miami this summer. After brainstorming with her peers in El Salvador she decided on the ESL program.

Sheny's tenacity and dedication is de-

rived from her father who overcame extreme poverty and became a successful entrepreneur.

"Everything I do in my life is dedicated to him and his honor to make him proud," remarked Sheny.

The fundraiser featured a ticket raffle of prizes, a billiard tournament, music and drinks. Current and former NJCU students came out for the event to show their support.

"It sounds like a good project, especially in a place like El Salvador, that's why I'm here to lend some support," said Alex Moreira, 25, criminal justice major from Rutherford.

"She wants to educate people. She wants to help people get a job to make money and put food on the table," said Frank Guzman Jr., 25, history and secondary education major from Jersey City.

The Foundation will be organizing various local fundraisers in the upcoming months.

For more information about donating and volunteering contact Sheny Guzman at [giveachance.sgg@gmail.com](mailto:giveachance.sgg@gmail.com) and also check out the Foundation's facebook page, [www.facebook.com/groups/giveachance](http://www.facebook.com/groups/giveachance).

## NEWS

## Study abroad donation raises conflict of interest concerns

By Rafal Rogoza

SGO Executive Board donation of \$27,500 to India study abroad trip in mid September raises conflict of interest concerns among Student Council members as two Executive Board members are attending the trip. The donation also includes a previously undisclosed scholarship award to attending students.

"The selection process by which applicants were chosen is of the greatest concern to me and many others," said Sean Wilson, 22, criminal justice major and President of Free Thinkers Society from Jersey City. "I brought up the supposition of this being a moral question in part due to the fact that two members of the e-board are in attendance for this trip, including the son of VP of Student Affairs Dr. Melendez, furthermore, other qualified persons had higher GPA's and a better benefit of attending this trip."

According to Joanne Bruno, VP of Academic Affairs, the selection process was fair and objective as the 17 students selected all received high approval scores from the selection committee. All five SGO Executive Board members applied for the trip with two being selected based on the selection committee's evaluation, a total of 43 students applied.

Vice President Bruno referred all additional inquiries about conflict of interest to the Student Government Organization. "It's my understanding of SGO that they have their own policies that control a conflict of interest situation."

"We all feel, at the end of the day we're all students. We all applied [and] two got in. The issue is students are upset we donated to the trip, but we extended the deadline and lowered the cost," answered Mack Do, SGO VP of Activities when asked about the conflict of interest accusations.

"We donated \$27,500 to the

India trip and we did that because we knew we had money in the contingency fund," said Aurora Estevez, SGO VP of Finance.

According to Estevez, the decision was made in part to lower costs of the trip for students and to allow more students to attend.

*"At the end of the day we're all students. We all applied [and] two got in."*

Mack Do,  
SGO VP of Activities

"If I can't afford school and I'm struggling to pay for my kid's diapers I'm not going to apply for a trip that's \$1,000," said Estevez.

The donation lowered the student cost from \$1,000 to \$500 and increased the number of students attending the trip from 10 to 17, according to Dr. Melendez VP of Student Affairs.

However, a review of the amount donated to the trip determined that only \$20,000 was transferred.

When asked how the remaining \$7,500 was going to be spent Melendez responded that the money will be reimbursed to the students attending the trip after their return.

"The foundation will use the money to reimburse the students as a scholarship for representing the University in India," said Melendez.

When asked why during the application process the student body wasn't informed that a scholarship award was included in the trip Melendez answered, "It was my judgment not to say that money was guaranteed. I didn't feel comfortable saying that at the time, the fact is the money is not here. SGO may decide we'll leave it at \$20,000."

According to Estevez, the money donated came from the Executive Board's budget and did not need the Student Council's vote of approval.

"We needed to make that decision right away so we took it from our e-board budget," said Estevez who mentioned that the Executive Board did not have time to ask the Student Council to vote on the donation because the application deadline for the trip was the day of the first Student Council meeting.

The large sum donated did force the Executive Board to ask the Student Council for an additional \$30,000 to be added to their budget.

"These inquiries of conflict of interest became a real problem after most SGO members had realized that we had been bamboozled by the e-board when they had sent a vote through council for a \$30,000 bail out; as a result, we began to ask more questions about earlier handlings as well as future ones too," said Wilson.

"We're student leaders so we're going to be scrutinized anyway, such accusations are unfair because we're students as well," said Do.

### NJCU LECTURE SERIES

## Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist writes about American imam

By Jan Aguilos

A Pulitzer Prize-winning New York Times journalist, Andrea Elliott, spoke at New Jersey City University on November 21 about American Muslims. The speaking engagement was part of NJCU's University Lecture Series and took place in the Gothic Lounge in Hepburn Hall Room 202.

Elliott won her Pulitzer Prize, the most prestigious award for both journalism and literature, in 2007 for Feature Writing on a series of articles focused on Sheik Reda Shata, an Egyptian-born Imam from Brooklyn.

The Interim Vice President of University Advancement, William Fellenberg, started off introducing the program, and then Alina Gharabedian made a few remarks on some of the achievements that Andrea Elliott has accomplished and introduced her.

Elliott began speaking about a decade bookended by both the 9/11 terrorist attacks and the continued fight over the Park 51 Islamic Center.

"I think that integration is the defining issue," said Andrea Elliott in an exclusive interview with the Gothic Times during a reception after she spoke in the Gothic Lounge.

Americans, not just American Muslims, Elliott said during her speaking engagement, were in "new territory." Suspicion had arisen after 9/11 and many Americans were threatened by images of "rows of men in knitted caps bowing their heads" as well as veiled Muslim women being boxed in as "looking fragile" and oppressed.

During the years after 9/11, Elliott surmised there was an undertow of suspicion that lead to headlines like "Behind the Evil" and "Voices Torn Behind the Veil" from news organizations which focused on the "far edges

of Islam and its adherents."

There were Mohammads who now wanted to be referred to as "Mo" and Osamas who now wanted to be referred to as "Sam" in the post-9/11 years.

Sheik Reda Shata, the subject of the Pulitzer-winning articles and Omar Hammami represent two diametrically opposed sides of the need for Muslim Americans to integrate in America.

Sheik Reda was a young, 30-something (at the time Elliott first covered him) immigrant imam from Egypt who had to adapt to the needs of the mostly immigrant Muslims of his Brooklyn neighborhood. He was trusted and closely tied to many in his community, and Elliott knew that as a reporter she needed his contacts if she wanted to write about how American Muslims were trying to integrate in a post-9/11 world.

"I was struggling to get access to the Muslim community and I finally hit a wall," admitted El-



nahj.org

Andrea Elliott

liott to the Gothic Times. "The only way I was going to get a deeper story was by spending a lot of time in one place."

According to the Office of Communications and Marketing, around 80 students, staff, and faculty attended the event,

and the audience members were open to asking Elliott questions after she spoke.

"I liked [the event] because Andrea Elliott gave a positive opinion of Muslims," said Ayyad, a Political Science major from North Bergen. "I'm used to hearing negative opinions of Muslims from non-Muslims."

Hugo Morales, Interim Director of the Office of Communications and Marketing, set up the event with the help of students and recent alumni and was positive about his assessment of the event.

"I didn't have the opportunity to enjoy events," said Morales when he brought up the fact that he attended NJCU years ago. "[Current students] really have the opportunity to enjoy student activities."

Note: The days for the University Lecture Series will change to Tuesdays starting the 2012-2013 Academic Year.

## GIFTS FROM THE HEART: Helping families during the holidays

By Allison Lozada

The 16th Annual Gifts from the Heart Project was held on the NJCU campus from November to December. Sergio G Villamizar and Arnold Jeter of the athletics department, Co-Chair of the counseling center Abisola Gallagher, Co-Chair of financial aid Pat Albers, Theresa Guerriere of A. Harry Moore School, and Juanita Randall of library services all came together to join the cause.

Their goal was to help raise new or nearly new clothes and toys to families in Jersey City. This project is a community service program that started in 1995 and has joined with other non-profit Jer-

sey City organizations who also focus on helping those in need whether it is shelter, food, or guidance. The organizations are Let's Celebrate and Women Rising.

**G.T:** How much was donated?

Every year has been slightly different and we don't normally get much in regards to cash donations in order to quantify it. However, we always have at least two or three vans full of gifts that we deliver to the above organizations.

**G.T:** Was it successful this year compared to past years?

At this time is too early to say since we are not picking up the collection boxes until December 5th, however, based on

what I have seen so far, the amount of calls I have received from people interested in making donations or volunteering to help us sort and wrap the gifts I think we are going to have a very successful year despite the financial difficulties many people are experiencing right now.

**G.T:** What is the challenging part of this whole event?

The most challenging part is the logistics behind the whole enterprise, we have to reach out to housekeeping and to shipping and receiving to get boxes months in advanced of the event. We have to make arrangements to wash the donated (used) clothing, we have to reserve the Gothic Lounge for our sorting

and wrapping. We create flyers, gift tags, volunteer lists; we reach out to student organizations and to the entire University community. We have to reserve the vans that will be used to pick up and deliver the gifts.

**G.T:** What is the most rewarding part of this whole event?

The most rewarding part is knowing that you are helping families in desperate need and making a significant difference in the lives of others. I have two young kids myself and I can't imagine what it would be like not to be able to provide for their needs. I personally always make donations of new clothing and toys for toddlers and young children.

LIFESTYLE

# Hot spots to visit on New Year's Eve

By Kiera Rolle

New Year's Eve is right around the corner and you have nowhere to go? You don't want to hangout with your family and you don't want to pay outrageous prices for a club.

Never fear – here are some fun yet innovative ways to bring in the New Year without the same old ideas.

Ever wonder how it would feel celebrating the New Year with big name celebrities? Well here's your chance, at the Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum Theater in New York City. Ring in the New Year with open bar from 8 p.m.-2 a.m. (21+), h'orderves from 8.p.m.-11.p.m. and unlimited soda and juice for under the 21 years old crowd.

You get to mingle with 200 life-like celebrities and popular icons, right in the middle of Times Square and just a block from the famous ball drop. Admission \$85 for juice bar and \$95

for open bar. Located a block away from the Port Authority and just eight blocks away from the PATH train located on 34th Street.

At the AMC movie theater in Time Square, enjoy watching the ball drop from six stories high and bring in the New Year with movies, dancing, games and party favors, all included with admission.

General party admission is \$35 for 21+ and \$25 under 21. It's a fun and exciting way to bring in the year with friends and family. Located a block from Port authority and six blocks from the PATH.

For all the bikers and skaters out there, don't fret, there is a New Year's Eve celebration for you guys too and the best part it's FREE! "Time up!" is celebrating their 12th annual Bike and Ride outdoor after party, and all you need is a bike or a pair of skates.

The meet up will be at 10:30 p.m. at Washington Square Park, under the arch and from there



123rf.com

you will ride to Belvedere Castle in the Middle of central park. The ride will be followed by a New Year's Eve dance party and fireworks.

Make sure to dress festive, bring your favorite New Year's noisemakers as well as food and drinks to share. You can take the 6,B, N, R, Q, 2, 3 and 1 train all

to Central Park. Do you like marathons but feel like miles of running is just not for you? How about celebrating

Continued on page 11

## Representing your roots should never be out of style!

By Angela Giddings

Senior Graphic Design major Avi McClain, 27, of Brooklyn, NY is the sole proprietor of Contemporary Negro, a product line inspired by an absence of cultural esteem among African Americans.

A year and a half ago, McClain had a vision to make representing black roots and culture cool again. McClain is not only the owner of Contemporary Negro but he also fills the role of designer, promoter, and salesman.

G.T: What inspired the birth of your Contemporary Negro?

What inspired me to start was basically the lack of direction I was seeing in the majority of African-Americans. You have to know where you came from to know where you are going.

When I was growing up, the Pro Black movement was so strong. It was seen in art, music, movies, and fashion. It was everywhere!

And as I got older, it died out in a sense. At least in terms of it being "mainstream" of course there were people who never left the movement, but a lot did.

So I came to a realization that I want to do my part in trying to restore the "old" movement, and I saw that others felt the same.

G.T: What is the goal Contemporary Negro?

To bring back what NEVER should have left and that is representing black roots and culture.

G.T: How do you market yourself and Contemporary Negro?

I market myself through Facebook, blogs, Twitter and business cards.



Photo courtesy of Avi McClain

Student and business owner Avi McClain

G.T: What is your target market?

The whole African Diaspora, but for now, African-Americans nationwide.

G.T: What products do you sell?

*"When I was growing up, the Pro Black movement was so strong! ...As I got older it died out in a sense."*

Avi McClain  
Owner, Contemporary Negro

Right now, I sell buttons, medallions that you can wear as a pin also, and T-Shirts. All my products have to do with significant events and people in Black History or just taking a new twist on representing roots and culture in this modern day.

G.T: What is the price range of your products/services?

My prices range from \$3-\$20. Even when I expand to jackets,

hoodies, sweaters, hats, etc., I still will keep the price attainable, because it's not about getting rich and overcharging, it's about having as many people represent as possible.

G.T: What inspires your designs?

I want it to be hip to wear things of black culture again.

G.T: Do you do fashion shows/events? Are there any coming up?

I've done a few small events and flea markets. As of now, there are none coming up, but I always let my customers and fans know what's going on.

G.T: Do you plan to expand? When, where and how?

I do plan to expand to ship my products Worldwide for starters. I also want to reach out to more people in a position to reach the masses, namely musicians and actors.

G.T: What do you enjoy most

Continued on page 11

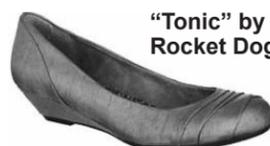
## Retail Heeling!

By Angela Giddings

With the holiday season well underway and sales galore, now is a great time to shop for a pair of shoes either for a gift or a holiday party. Not sure what heels are trendy for the season? Here's a little help.

### Wedges

Wedges were "it" during Spring/Summer 2011 and they have carried over into this season as one of the heel types to wear. Wedges are super comfortable and for many easier to walk in than a standard heel. Some of the latest styles can be found at Macy's, Urban Outfitters, and Nordstrom.



"Tonic" by Rocket Dog

If you haven't quite mastered walking in heels consider a wedge with a heel height of 2" or less. Macy's has a great selection of lower wedges. The Rocket Dog "Tonic" wedge is simple yet stylish and is less than \$50.

For medium heel height check out the Chelsea Crew "Stella" bootie. This 3" wedge bootie has a lug sole that provides great traction with style. Available at Urban Outfitters for \$69, in black or beige.

For the expert or daredevil is the Jeffery Campbell "Zip-2" wedge bootie, 6" with a 2" platform. Available at Nordstrom for \$189.95.

### Chunky Heels and Platforms

Chunky heels and platforms



"Zip-2" by Jeffrey Campbell



Spiked "Lita" by Jeffrey Campbell

are also comfortable and trendy this season. One of the more popular chunky heel shoes is the Jeffery Campbell "Lita" Bootie. The "Lita" comes in an extremely wide variety of colors, patterns, fabrics and textures and range in

Zebra-stripes "Lita" by Jeffrey Campbell



price from \$129.95 to \$194.95.

The best place to shop for the "Lita" would be Solestruck.com. This site offers about sixty different options and the price for each is just \$159.95 with free 24hr shipping Monday-Friday. Solestruck.com also has the "Lita" in fur for \$194.95.



Purple feather "Lita" by Jeffrey Campbell

If you don't find your size there is an option for an email alert when your size becomes available.

American flag "Lita" by Jeffrey Campbell



## ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT

## THEATRE REVIEW

## 'A Splitting Case'

By Francis A. Wilson

Of all the musicals, in all of the college campuses, in all the world, "City of Angels" had to come to mine. "City of Angels" is a musical that first debuted at the Virginia Theater. It debuted December 11, 1989, and it ran for three years.

The musical has been performed over eight hundred times, and now finds itself here at the Margaret Williams Theater at New Jersey City University. "City of Angels" was originally directed by Michael Blakemore, but now has been brought to the students and various other patrons of Jersey City by the Music, Dance, and Theater Department. "City of Angels" is a noir style

musical steeped in the metaphysical with snippets of risqué scenes of sexual tension and downright debauchery. The sexual content was one of the musical's more redeeming qualities.

The noir [a black detective story] style was a real treat, and very refreshing. It really appealed to the paperback detective novel enthusiast, and seemed to go over quite well. The noir style is easily identifiable, and a fun playful way to portray a story. However, the problem comes in when you add the metaphysical twist.

The divergent and separate colliding worlds confused me at first. I thought "City of Angels" was just going to be a noir detective story, very basic and plain, but then the second world

emerged and threw me for a bit of a loop.

In a topsy-turvy kind of a way I fumbled around; mentally speaking of course, trying to piece together what was going on. It turns out that the musical's story is in two parts, told in two ways by two separate worlds that share a loose connection to one another.

Each world was separate, and distinct. The noir world was obviously dark, and covered in various shades. It almost has a gritty feel to it. Just the way I like my plays.

The second world was bright, and very much vivid. Initially this fact didn't dawn on me. It was only later after some research that I discovered this interesting fact about the musical.

The problem was the lights. The lights were overwhelming at times, and seemed as though they were stuck on the rave setting. Often I would find myself distracted by the lights, and couldn't follow the story as easily because of them.

The stages, however, were magnificent and well done. The elegant design, and simplicity added in the shifting story arch's, and hide the stage crew perfectly. This was until a small malfunction during one shift.

The stage background seemed to take on a life of its own at one point, and decided to become a little problematic. It really wasn't a big deal, and the stage crew

promptly took care of the problem. Other than that, the transitions between the two story lines, and the shifting scenes came off flawlessly.

Sure, the musical had a few hiccups here and there, but the overall experience was alright. I would have enjoyed "City of Angels" more if I had more theater knowledge. The over use of

lights, and their intensity distracted me, and the metaphysical aspect confused me.

The thing that was important was that the actors enjoyed what they were doing, and it showed. They may not have won me over completely, but judging from the audience reactions, I am sure they will go on to have great success during their run.



Cast of "City of Angels."

Photo by nj.com

## BOOK REVIEW

## 'Still Standing: Single Mothers on the Front Line'

By Hannah Botjer

Single mother Michelle West is an adjunct at New Jersey City University, and Fairleigh Dickinson University. She has just written her second book, *Still Standing: Single Mothers on the Front Line*. Her latest book is an intimate segment of her first book, *Lily of the Valley*. Both books are on the hardships of being a single mother.

West believes, "In order to get through you have to go through and now I can go back and help someone else get through," and her book is just that.

The title *Still Standing* speaks for itself. *Still Standing* is a captivating book about women who have overcome and conquered and how the journey

makes you better.

"If you're still standing you've already won," West said.

*Still Standing* speaks to the lives of single mothers. The book talks about the hardships, depression, forgiveness, loneliness, and celibacy, among a host of things. It's about spiritual, emotional, and physical wellness.

"Single mothers are the most neglected women on the planet," said West, "They give so much of themselves until there is nothing left for them."

West is particularly proud of the last chapter. It's devoted to leaving legacies for your children. "Children are sponges to their parents. If we aren't careful to lead a proper life with morals and values our children won't either," West claims. "I

stayed grounded because my parents passed on their strict Christian values to their children."

This chapter describes how all mothers want to leave something behind for their children but it's deeper than just a tangible object: it's what mothers instill in their children that they carry with them for the rest of their lives. West believes that we have to be careful of what we expose our children to if we want to leave a positive legacy.

West decided to write the book because she feels she is compelled as a woman to make a difference everywhere she goes. "It's something every mother who is great in life has to do, we're obligated to help each other," West said.

Continued on page 10

## 'Tis the season for...



By Aida Toro

When the holidays are approaching, entertainment rises as well. Throughout Christmas time, there are tree lightings, toy drives, and Christmas music. One of the media's most popular forms of entertainment for the holidays is Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol." This year, it will be aired at New Jersey City University. Marketing Director of the Shakespeare Actor Company, Peter Galman, is the promoter of the play at NJCU.

"We are the Actor Shakespeare Company, We have a show at NJCU every year," says Galman.

*A Christmas Carol* is a novel by Charles Dickens which was first published in 1843. The tale takes place in London, England, in which Ebenezer Scrooge, a selfish and snobby business man does not believe in the Christmas spirit. Throughout the tale, three ghosts visit Scrooge in order to make him believe in Christmas: The Ghost of Christmas Past, The Ghost of Christmas Present, and The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come. Afterwards, Scrooge learns a couple of lessons and results in believing in Christmas. With this being the actual story of the Christmas Carol, the play that the Shakespeare Actor Company is launching at NJCU is a tad bit different.

Galman says, "This is our first holiday show. What makes this show special is that it is only performed by one actor."

The play is usually performed by many actors, not just one. However, Galman provided some fun facts on why this version of "A Christmas Carol" is a one man show. The play is based on the solo acting adap-

tation of the Dickens' Christmas Carol by Greg Oliver Bodine. Although Bodine performed this one-man act before, the solo acts will be performed by the Actor Shakespeare Company's resident artist, Colin Ryan.

"The actor is telling the story of the Christmas Carol as the narrator himself, which is Charles Dickens. He does story telling which he is immersed into each character, like any good story teller would do", said Galman.

Not only is "A Christmas Carol" being performed, but so is "A Child's Christmas in Wales" by Dylan Thomas. The poem is an anecdotal retelling of Christmas from the view of a young child and is a romanticized version of the past Christmases, which portrayed a nostalgic and simpler time.

"The poem is very unique and universal due to the fact that it shows the audience that Christmas is a time about coming home to family and mainly focuses on children. It also discusses on how much it snows and that Christmas is always white, describing the effect that snow has on people. Christmas, snow, and family, are a good way to warm the audience up for the Christmas Carol," says Galman.

The first piece of this one man show will be Dylan's "A Child's Christmas in Wales," which will run for 20 minutes followed by Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" that will run for an hour and 20 minutes. The show will be in the West Side Theatre on the dates of December 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, and 18.

Galman says, "We are offering tickets to NJCU Students for only \$10 and a 50 percent discount for six or more students."

**SHAKESPEARE ACTOR COMPANY** at NEW JERSEY CITY UNIVERSITY

Season 2011-12 • Rough Magic

Christmas with Dickens & Dylan  
December 8 - 18, West Side Theater




**Christmas with Dickens & Dylan**  
Directed By Peter Galman

**December 8th - 18th, 2011**  
**Thursdays & Fridays at 7:30 p.m.**  
**Saturdays and Sundays at 3:00 p.m.**

The holiday classics from two literary giants with a common joy of language: Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* adapted by Greg Oliver Bodine, and Dylan Thomas' *A Child's Christmas in Wales* are presented as a one-man show in which the authors "show up" and play all the parts! Ghosts woo and rattle their chains as these writers embody the characters they have created, warming the hearts of audiences.

Buy Tickets Online



## ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT

## VIDEO GAME REVIEW

## Will you answer the 'Call of Duty?'

By Matthew Barnes

Calling all gamers and gun lovers! Go to your local game store, because Call of Duty Modern Warfare 3 has hit the shelves! Call of Duty Modern Warfare 3 was given a highly anticipated release on November 8, midnight. Those who purchased the game could pick up the limited edition, normal edition, or Hardened edition. Due to this November being the month of the empty wallet, gamers would be wise to choose what version attunes to their budget.

Call of Duty Modern Warfare 3, like all other Call of Duty games are described in one word: Awesome. The game itself has three modes, Special Ops, Campaign, and Multiplayer that includes both local, and Xbox live. There is also a set of fifty achievements, and a primo package for those who had the game on pre-order.

In this game the campaign follows the theme of recapturing the world that was stolen from you. The first level takes place in New York City, which has been rav-

aged by war, and occupied by the Russian army. The Russian army has taken control of the airspace, and set up a signal jamming tower. This means that no American air units could establish dominance, and without air control New York is as good as lost. Your job is to destroy the signal jamming tower and drive the Russians out of New York.

You, the player assume the role of Frost, a decorated soldier in America's Army and the story's protagonist of Modern Warfare 3's campaign. The battle in New York is just the beginning, as you continue your role in the story, you will discover that this whole war is just a piece of a conspiracy, hiding answers that Frost himself has to fight in both a visible war, and an invisible war to find. The campaign is not compulsory, and you have the option of simply head-shooting n00bs in Online Multiplayer.

Online Multiplayer makes a return (again) with new maps, new guns, and a balanced set of perks. The online Multiplayer gifts the player with three starting classes that have their own guns, perks and Killstreaks. The multiplayer

seems to take a different approach to warfare, as it punishes those who are too mobile and seems to have volatile spawning positions. Campers have been punished a bit more this time around. The most notable feature of the new multiplayer are the Killstreaks. Killstreaks enable you to summon powerful army artillery to your command. Artillery such as the Cobra gunner, UAV scanner, Recon Drone, and the always fun airstrike. The game play has been given little change, so it still retains the same awesomeness. The graphics have also been given a small boost, but the movement of the player, and the engine of the game itself has no noteworthy changes.

Special Ops mode is a refreshing change of pace that gives players a change of pace from the ever stale "Zombie mode" Special ops offers two features: Survival mode, and Mission mode. Survival mode is a mode where you have an endless amount of soldiers thrown at you, and you are timed on how long you can survive against them. The longer you survive and kill, the better your score.



firstcovers.com

The alternative mode, dubbed mission mode is a change of pace from the norm. Players are given specific tasks. Upon receiving the task, the player should carry them out, and be given the next mission. Mission mode and survival mode is a refreshing change of pace, but the rest of the game remains disappointingly the same as the last three hyped up Call of Duty games.

Call of Duty has received scarce changes, the survival mode and mission mode are great new additions, but everything else seems so mundane. As fun and awesome as the online multi-player is, it still leaves

players thirsty for change, change that is scarcely, if ever quenched. The compulsory campaign mode is a great what-if scenario, but I feel that its rail shooter, slash beat'em up till the boss mechanics leave me expecting more by the ending. Survival mode and Mission mode are a nice change of pace, but this still does not fulfill my constant demand for change that Infinity Ward and Treyarch fail to deliver. I rate Call of Duty Modern Warfare 3 an 8/10. I was expecting more, and honestly I think I may have been a fool to expect that much change in this series that has turned into a no - effort cash cow.

## VIDEO GAME REVIEW

## 'Battlefield 3'

By Francis A. Wilson

I was recently fortunate enough to get a hold of a copy of "Battlefield 3," and I must say that it was, for the most part, awesome.

Battlefield is a first person shooter first developed by the Swedish company EA Digital Illusions CE. Their first entry in the franchise was Battlefield 1942 which debuted in 2002 for the computer console. They primarily stayed in their computer comfort zone, but quickly adapted to changing times by adding personal console gaming to their resume.

The first game to come out for personal gaming consoles was "Battlefield 2: Modern Combat." EA Digital Illusions CE has had a long and illustrious career, and "Battlefield 3" is a shining example of their dedication to excellence. However, was it really that great?

Let us go through what I con-

sider to be the pros of "Battlefield 3," shall we; what few of them that I could glean out of my playing time. Initially I beta tested this title, and had mixed thoughts and many concerns.

Upon popping this title into my tenth Xbox 360, I immediately notice the graphic update. The graphics are stunning to say the least. It was almost scary to see such realistic graphics in a first person shooter like this.

Needless to say it was a pleasant surprise. There was one problem, however, and that was the ability to see specs of dust, and dirt on the screen. It was a little distracting at times, but a minor nuisance.

The gameplay was phenomenal. Running through the streets of war trodden third world countries never felt so real and so fluid. The motion capture came out great. This is crucial because it makes evading hordes of enemies much easier. Finally I can run fast, hop over obstacles, and not get caught

up with lag ridden mechanics. Hurdles and obstacles are a thing of the past, because vaulting makes quick work of them.

Vaulting has become one of my new favorite mechanics. And I know what you're thinking, "well is it the kind of vaulting we have come to expect from 'Gears of War?'"

And the short answer is no! It is the one stop shop kind of vaulting that you would expect a soldier would be capable of doing in real life. It is about time we are able to mimic such maneuvers properly in a first person shooter.

I almost forgot one of the best parts of this game. I couldn't believe it when I saw it, and later checked my achievements page to confirm that there aren't any collectables. Or at the very least "Battlefield 3" is not one of those first person shooters that has an over emphasized view on collectables.

I personally hate them, and wish they wouldn't be so much of a bane for me. I really can't help going and collecting them all. It is like a compulsion now, and "Battlefield 3" is a refreshing change from that hideous compulsive grind. But as far as pros go, that was about it.

The gameplay was a little slow for my liking. Having a team is nice and all; especially when their artificial intelligence is too spectacular, but having to wait for their slow digital bodies to catch up in order to progress the gameplay is really annoying.

We as gamers are action starved, and expect a level of intensity that "Battlefield 3" just doesn't provide. However, if you are a "Battlefield" veteran I am sure you are already used to this. It just was a pain for me, but this type of gameplay is a staple of the "Battlefield" franchise which makes it unique and sets it apart from other first person shooters in the genre.

"Battlefield 3" may be stunning and well designed, but it suffers

from one crucial flaw. This game has been brought to us by EA. And as any real gamer will know, EA is notorious for being a complete pain in the neck. They have been known to close down servers on popular games. They have always had a problem linking their website and their games together; if anyone has ever played "Skate" you know this is true.

But the real kicker is the product code nonsensical trend that EA seems to love so much. The multiplayer portion of the game is not only on a separate disc; which is a pain in itself, but it also requires a product code in order to be able to use it. So forget about buying it second hand, forget about borrowing it from a

friend, and forget about renting it. This little addition to the game is a horrible money grubbing plot whose sole design is to ruin frugal gamers' life.

And to think, the fiscally responsible ones are to be punished. This recent trend of micro marketing is a crime, and a crime in which EA has fully endorsed and absorbed into its regular operations. What a shame.

To be honest, "Battlefield: Bad Company 2" was better in my opinion. But then again I am not a "Battlefield" fanboy so whose opinion really matters. If you were going to buy it, I am sure you are still going to buy it. But be warned, "Battlefield 3" just doesn't seem to live up to the hype.



gameinformer.com



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Join the staff of *The Gothic Times*.

You can always contact us by  
e-mailing [gothictimes@gmail.com](mailto:gothictimes@gmail.com) or  
stopping by the office at GSUB 301.

## FEATURES

## Frat strikes right chord: 'We're the cool kids'

By Allison Lozada

When you walk on to campus you can usually out the fraternities. They wear their letters, their jackets, or you can hear them clapping their hands when they are stepping, but have you heard of a musical frat? Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia is a fraternity that is made up of men who specialize in music.

"When I was first approached about joining I was like 'eh a frat' and I thought 'yeah it's just drinking and stupid,'" said Will Sapanaro, 24, current Brother, "but then I started to read up on it [PMA] and started talking to these cats and then I realized this is great."

If you missed them at this year's Meet The Greeks, NJCU's Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia colony was revived again in 2009 after being absent since 2001 due to low interest. They became recognized as a fully fledged chapter when they had their Crossing Ceremony on November 12, 2011.

"2009 to 2010 was spent holding just interest meetings," said Chris Messina, 24 and current Brother. Dave Yule, 21, President of the local chapter added, "We went to an event at William Patterson and we handed in paper work for colony status, which is basically the beginning of creating a chapter."

Bernard Mathews, Adjunct Professor who teaches guitar class at NJCU is one of the founding fathers of NJCU's



Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia members at their Cross Ceremony on November 12.

Photo from facebook/PhiMuAlphaSinfonia

chapter who encouraged music students to revive it again. He was the orchestra director at Leonia High School where Vice President of PMA Zach Seely, 23, went to high school along with Will Sapanaro. Not only did Mathews encourage the two in college but encouraged them to go to NJCU after high school.

Ossian E. Mills is the founding father of this musical frat and was established on October 6, 1898 at the New England Conservatory in Boston, Massachusetts. Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia is the largest and longest running musical frat in the nation.

Seely now a NJCU Alumnus was responsible for making an-

nouncements in class and encouraging music students to join after becoming inspired by Mathews.

Before you assume you must be a music major think again. "We are a social frat first, but we have a common interest in music," said Yule.

They do not require anyone who is interested to take a music class, just be friendly. However, this doesn't change the fact majority of the fraternity are music majors.

"It's all about the fraternity amongst us, brotherhood amongst the rest of the musical students, advancing music in America and a loyalty to the

school," Yule added.

They plan on having some events in the near future such as a fundraiser to raise money to attend their National Convention, which is every three years. Another plan they hope to succeed in is an event for a charity that donates instrument strings to third world countries. In February they will be doing a "Singing Valentine."

Yule explains, "You get a wooden rose and a song from the brothers," and Sapanaro adds, "We do it to anyone or anything as long as you pay."

They did this last year to several students and Vice President of NJCU, Dr. Bruno.

The brothers also mentioned the Mills Music Mission created by Ossian Mills. The purpose of this mission is to sing/perform for people. Recently the brothers have gone to Waterford Towers in Edgewater to perform for senior citizens, along with A. Harry Moore School for children, and have done community service in their own music department.

The community service consisted of them bringing dishes of food the Wednesday before last year's Thanksgiving Feast and this year for music students who must stay on campus during the break. Among these they have also helped at Open house and audition days for incoming freshman/transfers.

This fraternity is only for men but there is another female frat – not a sorority – similar to this musical group: Sigma Alpha Iota. They have been around campus since 1997 as well and their President is Crystal Santiago.

If you are interested in checking Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia out you can either go to their office in Grossnickle 244, their facebook PhiMuAlphaSinfonia, or email them pmaoth@gmail.com.

Just keep in mind, you don't need to be a music major or know how to play an instrument. If you can vibe with the "friendly frat" chances are they will work with you. "We're the cool kids," said Sapanaro, "we're not about wasting people's time; we are about building each other up and helping each other out."

## GETTING TO KNOW SGO

## Jan Auilos, VP of Public Information

By Allison Lozada

Being the current SGO Vice President of Public Information and double majoring in political science and media arts, it is no wonder you will see Jan Auilos, 24, from Secaucus, running all over the NJCU campus doing this or that. He has been the past editor for three sections of the *Gothic Times* and in the Spring of 2010 he created and was President of the Model United Nations Club. Along with his many accomplishments he has also concurrently served as the Vice President of the Gothic Knight Films.

G.T: What is your position at SGO?

J.A: My position is Vice President of Public Information. I reach out and promote on behalf of Student Government Organization.

G.T: What made you want to run for the position?

J.A: I thought it would be a good way to try out my skills as a student-leader and try to positively affect the campus community.

G.T: What's the hardest/easiest part about your job?

J.A: The hardest part of the job is trying to please people who are just set in their ways. The easiest part of my job is talking to students on campus.

G.T: What satisfaction do you get being an SGO board mem-



Photo courtesy of Jan Auilos  
Jan Auilos

ber?

J.A: I have the satisfaction in knowing that I care about how other people experience this community we have. I am satisfied in collaborating with other people and discussing common goals.

G.T: What does SGO do for the campus community?

J.A: We create events that are available to all students! We've had parties, cook-outs, socials, public forums on Public Safety, the Library the Bookstore, and the Cafeteria, as well as meetings that are open to the public. We are the bridge between the students and administration.

G.T: Does SGO have any future events?

J.A: SGO will have events January to May and we will plan them in December. We have so many ideas that we know that the campus will just love.

## The rooms are alive with the sound of music

By Allison Lozada

The Rossey building houses many talents such as guitarists, percussionists, singers and music teachers. Dr. Maredia Warren is the Coordinator of Music Education here on campus and is one of the many responsible for the future music teachers. Her job is to train music majors into becoming music educators.

Warren explained that she has had a strong passion for music for most of her life. "[As] a child I was musically inclined," admitted Warren, "I have to thank my parents for recognizing that I had talent." When she was five years old her father brought a piano home and she began to play with it on her own which led to her lessons. She explained, "My ear and talent put it (music) together."

Warren's interest in music went further from piano. She has been playing the organ since a child, played the saxophone, trumpet, and glockenspiel in her High School band. She also was involved in her college marching band.

NJCU has a university chorale, jazz band, symphony of winds and percussion (symphonic band), and an orchestra. All of these ensembles perform one concert per semester. The orchestra of strings is not to be confused with the pit orchestra which is the musicians who perform at plays.

Dr. Warren's involvement with NJCU's Department of Music, Dance, and Theatre (MDT) started in 2000. Among many of her accomplishments she has conducted several honor choruses which include the New Jersey All State Mixed Chorus, the New Jersey All State Women's Chorus, and the Massachusetts ACDA Women's Honor Choir. Among her involvement, has also been the Director of Choral Music at



Dr. Maredia Warren

njcu.edu

Teaneck High School in Teaneck, New Jersey. She has also traveled, toured, and held workshops in Africa, Australia, Canada, China, and Europe.

While some students aspire to join the campus of NJCU with a musical talent it is not rare to find students who can play more than one instrument. "[There's] always room for growth," said Warren.

When asked what is her most rewarding part of her job she replied, "Seeing the change in students and to see how they progress from year to year, blossoming as artists or future teachers."

Students must audition on their best instrument to become part of the music department, however if they are at a crossroads on which instrument they should focus, they are simply advised to go forward with the instrument "they are stronger with and have preference for." Nevertheless, some students still apply (study another instrument) or dabble in bands outside of NJCU.

Warren was a part time educator at William Patterson University, Montclair University, Herbert H. Lehman College, and Fairleigh Dickinson University. To say she has a good amount of experience in her field would be an understatement.

The music department is "central to the life of the university," said Warren. "We hope this department will continue to grow and continue to be one of the best places for educating musicians and teachers."

There is never a dull moment when passing by the Rossey building because of all the music seeping out. Some may complain they are practicing too loud but as Warren describes it, "The university campus is dead without music."

Editor's note: Some of the information stated above was provided by the NJCU website.

## OPINION & ADVICE

### EDITORIAL: Let the beat STOP!

When most campus organizations hold events to attract people they normally have food and music. Cookies, cupcakes, and iced tea are normally what you will find at the table, but what about music? You can bet hip-hop will be the main genre of music played.

Event after event organizations stick to one genre of music and (mostly) attract people who enjoy hip hop while others are turned off. With a university so diverse it is shocking to know only hip hop is the target of music people choose to play loudly throughout the cafeteria.

Some students may argue that

majority of the campus enjoys hip hop but what about the minority? Organizations or events held by others would have heads turning and attract more interest if they broaden their horizons and explored other means of music.

When someone who can't stand hip hop walks through the opening doors of GSUB they normally turn around and walk out. If they aren't interested in the music, why would they stop by and endure it?

Metal, pop, rock, techno, or even country would be a refreshing start to bring more attention rather than the constant Drake, Lil' Wayne, Chris Brown, and

Usher. By playing Drake for three minutes then Katy Perry for the next, then Slayer, so on and so forth, this would be fair for everyone and gain the attention of others.

If the GSUB is holding an event people already suspect hip hop will be the music, it can be a change of pace if there is something other than the usual playing.

If organizations want their event to be successful they need to expand their minds and playlist to a variation of music. Once the variation opens more people would be thinking, "hey, let's check this table out," rather than "S.T.F.U!"

## The American Nightmare

By Diego Ugaz

Every year approximately 65,000 undocumented students graduate from high schools all over the United States and out of those, just about twenty percent will go to college. This statistic shows us that every year the number of undocumented students increases and that more and more of them aspire to go to college and lead a successful life. A couple of years ago, a proposal called the DREAM Act was submitted to the House of Representatives which would have provided conditional permanent residence to illegal students of good moral character, a sound idea that would have brought America one step closer to immigration reform. However, it never made it past the Senate to the dismay of many families of illegal college hopefuls.

There seems to be a common misconception about the average American immigrant. Most people believe that he/she is lazy, steals jobs from other people, and doesn't pay taxes. The truth is that most of them are hard workers that wind up doing most of the jobs that nobody else wants to do because we all know that most

legal citizens don't line up to pick strawberries for two dollars a day. The state of California receives over two billion dollars in tax money from undocumented immigrants according to stats, in hopes of building a good tax record so that one day they will eventually be rewarded with a residence or citizenship for their contributions. I know this because my family and I have paid taxes since we first came to this country ten years ago from our homeland of Peru and we still do to this very day, to no reward of course. We have spent many years in and out of court, visiting and paying lawyers, and filling out applications and forms; none of this has gotten us where we wanted to be or where we were promised we would be. If anything we have lost more than anything because at a point we were as close as anyone can get to attaining the coveted green card, just to have our dreams crushed by a technicality. Now we linger in limbo waiting for the world to finally accept that this is a real problem that affects many good people who want to make it in America, not leech off of it and move on to the next host.

Higher education for the children of immigrants is a tough



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hurdle to get through in life because of several factors. First, many colleges do not accept illegal students. Secondly, being forced to pay more than just the regular tuition, they cannot receive any help from the state in form of financial aid or a scholarship since most of them are not geared towards undocumented immigrants.

To make matters worse, last year around April a bill was passed in the state of Arizona to aid in the capture of undocumented immigrants and help reduce the amount of people who constantly enter the country through their border.

The bill originally stated that any immigrant that lived in Ari-

## THE GOTHIC TIMES

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Letters to the Editor are welcome from any member of the campus community. Editors reserve the right to edit for space. Please address all correspondence to Editor of *The Gothic Times* in GSUB, 2039 Kennedy Blvd, Room 301. We cannot guarantee the return of any submissions. If you wish to have the letter returned, please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

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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zona had to have their documentation papers on them at all time. Outrages ensued because this would allow the police to guess a person's immigration status based on guesswork and stereotypes, because there really is no great detective technique to weed out the immigrants and the native born Americans.

The Department of Justice then corrected the law so that the police would not be allowed to request this information from people during a lawful stop or arrest due to the fact that it would cause the state and the country big problems if the wrong person was detained; to this day Arizona is still trying to have that ruling reversed.

With that being said, it already makes Arizona one of the most dangerous places to live in America for undocumented immigrants, and it also will definitely have an effect on those undocu-

mented students who dream of applying to college in Arizona but probably will not due to fear of being caught by the law.

These kids are not the ones to blame for what they want; most times they are brought to this country as children if not younger because their parents escaped their country to make a better life for themselves and their families. Is that not the same principle on which America was founded? Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness seem to have taken a different turn in this modern age.

Whether it was religious persecution, a will to succeed in a foreign land, or just a new beginning, America has always been known to house those who want to strive and live the dream. So when the dream turns into a nightmare, when and how will we be able to wake up and set things right, for the people, for the future, and for our country?



Photo by Rafal Rogoza

Gothic Times Editor in Chief Ally Lozada

## Dear Santa,

This year our list is long but we swear everything will benefit the campus community as a whole. There are many students who spend at least one day devoted to school from morning to evening. Those students need quite a few items to keep their brains working and bodies functioning.

Students work hard all year round. Some even register for summer and winter classes, but they aren't the only hard workers. Our custodians, security, professors, and the rest of NJCU's staff make sure the university is constantly clean, well protected, and properly educated. On their down time they deserve some sort of entertainment whether it is better internet connection or cheaper food.

Santa, we promise to be good, "for goodness sake," if you can bring us these gifts!

1. As a campus community we would like to keep our classes small, so please Santa, don't cut our classes.
2. If you send us more adjuncts then classes won't have to be cut! There will be enough professors for everyone!
3. We would love to nibble every now and then without having to break our wallets. Cheaper cafeteria food would be a great gift.
4. Santa, I know this may be selfish but please bring us more writers to the Gothic Times. Our voices need

to be heard.

5. Our university is getting too expensive; more financial aid and more grants would help the entire NJCU student body to attend school.

6. We may be asking for too much but please bring us more music variety – no more constant hip hop music.

7. We have all these fantastic NJCU teams but we lack one sport that most colleges have: football team. If we play nice can you send us a new football team?

8. Most of us enjoy donating to charity, but we can't when others steal our money. Can you please send us better-secured gym lockers?

9. With the winter season, sniffles are sure to appear. Cheaper medical insurance would be helpful and beneficial.

10. Please, Santa, we are begging you to send us cheaper priced book at our book store! Without them we cannot study for all our exams.

11. We promise to try to stop downloading music if you send us better Wi-Fi. Ethernet cords are too much of a hassle to carry around.

Thanks, Santa, I know you won't let us down.

See you soon,  
 Allison Lozada

## OPINION & ADVICE

# Toss out the cheat sheets – hit the books!

By Atilla Azami

**T**is the season! That time of the year when you got to juggle; work, shopping, research papers, football stats—and of course, everyone's favorite—preparing for final exams. Ugh. Here are some tips collected from various professors and staff to stay ahead of the curve when it comes to preparing for finals.

Carla Deschamp, a grad student at NJCU and CSS tutor offered the following:

Work on good note-taking ahead of time. If you haven't done so hitherto, no better time than now to pick up the essential skill and habit.

Establish a daily study program and adhere to the schedule.

Be aware of times of the day when you possess optimal focus. (For those who need a triple shot of espresso Starbucks coffee to



123rf.com

**Monir Khilla's method of studying via osmosis.**

spell their name correctly, nighttime studying might be the best.)

Avoid time wasters: cell phones, TV, Facebook, distracting friends, etc.

Professor Elizabeth Lenn, an English adjunct advised:

Know the facts: what is the date and time of your final? Is it cu-

mulative, meaning it covers information from the whole semester, or just since the midterm? Will it be multiple choice, or are you expected to write short answers or essays? Knowing what you need to study is the first step in preparing to study.

## Urban City meets Urban Class at intersection of Urban Politics 213

By Gothic Times staff

**KARNOUTOUS HALL**—Urban Politics 213 is class that brings in political players from the community to talk about the political process and activism at large in this city.

Taught by Assistant Dean Fran Moran, Urban Politics dissolves the walls and textbooks and brings in the subjects themselves to be objectified, studied, and scrutinized by the students. They receive a first hand experience and a behind-the-scenes view of what it means to be a player in local politics.

According to Moran, "Only [at the local] level do you get to meet your elected officials." Chances are you might follow Obama on Twitter but you're not shaking the man's hand any time soon.

At a time when the youth vote (ages 18-29) hovers at around 20%, it's important to be reminded of what's at stake for the community. Bringing in people who are directly responsible for shaping the future of Jersey City to the classroom

may just be the jolt to action students need to get involved.

One of those subjects was Ivan Freire, a research assistant to Mayor Jerramiah Healy and Jersey City University alum.

"I came to [Urban Politics] because I have a deep interest in doing something in the community."

That same deep interest drove Freire to manage the "Green Task Force" initiative. It's an initiative that developed the "Adopt-a-Lot" program in Jersey City. A hugely successful program springing urban gardens to what otherwise would be dusty lots. NJCU has its own version of it as some our cafeteria food is grown in the GSUB terrace.

"Get involved," exclaimed Freire to as he took over the class from Moran. Freire graduated from NJCU in 2006 and immediately went to work for the Mayor's office. As an unpaid intern. He struggled to even get his foot in door and after 6 months of trying he was in and now he shares his insider perspective. "The city and the

university should build a better relationship," explains Freire.

Freire has bridged the gap between political science student to political science operative and if this class is as successful and as engaging as it appears on a cold wet Wednesday evening then the 27 faithful that showed up should produce another future agent of change.

"How can we turn inner city schools into suburban schools," asked Anthony Ramirez a 26history major.

Ramirez points out to inequality as one his main reasons behind taking urban politics in his junior year. "Jersey City needs a lot of improvements and I want to improve the quality of life in the inner city."

Ramirez has been influenced to the point where he's trying to start a soccer clinic with the goal of creating change among the city kids.

The class also goes on the road and visits city council meetings. In two weeks they will get a chance to interact with Councilman Steve Fulop, a Mayoral candidate for the next election.

## Student protests are only the tip of the iceberg

By Rafal Rogoza

If you missed the news because you were getting ready for your midterms you probably didn't hear about the student protests in California and New York. At UC Davis in California students organized to protest a 8% tuition hike, in 2009 their tuition saw a ridiculous 32 percent increase. In New York, CUNY students protested another tuition hike. This time the plan is to raise tuition \$300 every year for the next five years.

In both protests the police behaved unprofessionally. During the UC Davis protests a cop pepper sprayed a line of students as they sat in protest. It looked like he was watering a garden. In New York the police used force to clear the protest. Channel 4 News was live on the scene. A crowd of students gathered in front of the camera and when the reporter asked if anyone was hit by the police students showed bruises on their faces.

Don't be surprised if there are more frustrated students protesting. The economy is not improving and it seems like everybody is in debt. The federal government, New Jersey, public universities, and students are all getting by on loans. The federal and state governments don't want to take on more debt to lower tuition costs. Instead they'll give students the bill, increasing student debt, which is another financial crisis in the making.

Tuition increases are getting to the point where students truly can't afford a college education, especially students that provide for themselves. Keep in mind that students are paying more for less as universities cut classes and faculty.

These protests are only the tip of the iceberg. Students have learned how to organize by learning from the Occupy Wall St. movement. Campuses at various schools are discussing tactics and organizing in creative ways. To be honest they have no choice but to act.



Photo by Sean Rammarian  
Deputy managing editor Rafal Rogoza



Cartoon by Armando Sultan

The many corporate trademarks of the Occupy Wall Street movement.

## Still Standing

Continued from page 6

Her three children mainly inspired her. "I wanted to make sure that when they grew up and navigated through life they wanted to be like mom and do what mom did," West said.

West decided to write once she had hit her lowest point. After her divorce she was worried she wasn't going to be able to provide for her family.

School was a huge milestone for West because she grew up in a traditional Christian home where women were the housekeepers and men were the providers. She wanted to go back to school because she wanted to establish a career and make a difference.

After all the hardships, West

confesses she's proud of where she is now. Writing this book helps her remember where she came from.

"If it wasn't for the grace of god I wouldn't have survived." She believes her faith made her stronger throughout the journey.

West is having a book signing on December 11 at the Mary McLeod Bethune Life Center at 4 p.m. She hopes the signing means more than just buying the book. She wants to inspire her readers: "My ambition is not to just write; there is a need for women to rally and support each other."

West said, "86 percent of [single parent] families are single mothers families and 14 percent are single fathers."

## NEWS



Photo by Jersey Journal © used with permission

Unions and students picketing on Kennedy Boulevard.

## Unions and Students Protest at NJCU

Continued from page 1

should have some sympathy and compassion for us and to support higher education.”

Due to the budget cuts NJCU is facing this semester, classes and sections will be cut for Spring 2012.

Professor Joseph Moskowitz, Associate Professor of Political Science said “The administration is forced to do this, but they’re forced to cut class sections and classes students are already enrolled in.”

Dr. Moskowitz also said “Students could see class sizes of up to 35 students this upcoming Spring 2012 semester. If it wasn’t for certain professors checking their courses for next semester, the administration would have gotten away with it.”

Many Students sounded off on the issue. Britney Robinson, 22, Criminal Justice major from Trenton said “It might be an issue for people who are graduating. That may prolong students from graduating if their class is cut and isn’t available until next semester or next year.”

Kyle Preston, 19, Audio Engi-

neer and Media Arts major from Newark said “I think it’s terrible. I like smaller classes so I can get the attention I need.”

When asked on what the administration should do instead, both Preston and Robinson agreed that “They [the administration] need to cut their pay. We pay to go here and yet, we can’t take the classes we need. If we cut back on professors it’s a bigger burden on them.”

Nirav Patel, 23, Computer Science and Physics major from Jersey City said “I think it’s horrible they’re cutting classes. It’s stupid that tuition is going up and everything else is going down.”

Patel also agreed and said that “The administration should cut their payroll and take a bigger step in lobbying the state.”

Some students have already begun to feel the strains of class cuts and are experiencing overloaded classes.

Jessica Flores, 19, Education and History major from Union City said “One of my classes is pretty packed. People take advantage of the professor and submit stuff late, while I submit stuff on time and receive the same credit.”

Flores, however, thinks that there should be alternative options to remedy the situation.

“I think the school should reach out more to the Alumni and have them help fundraise.”

Samir Zaroui, 20, Marketing major from Union City said “I came to NJCU because it’s a small university, too many people in a class isn’t good.”

Zaroui feels that “The administration has to gather together as a group and to talk everything out.”

When asked to comment, Dr. Barbara Feldman, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, addressed concerns over the class cuts and said “I want to assure students that decisions regarding course cancellations are made collaboratively between the Dean’s office and Department chairs. Many factors enter into the decision [to cancel classes].”

Dean Feldman said that “Our first and primary factor in the decision to cancel classes has always been the effect a cancellation may have on students and how we can accommodate their needs should a class be cancelled. We will continue this practice going forward.”

## Christmas? Bah humbug!

Continued from page 1

of yester year, but full blown empty bank accounts kind of consumerism.

Christmas just gives the corporations, toy makers, and gadget inventors to come up with new products on the fly in order to get ready for the holiday season, over inflate the prices, and make a killing. And I do mean a killing, literally and metaphorically.

People have died in the pursuit of these tasty damnable treats. I mean come on, isn’t Christmas supposed to be about giving and helping your fellow man?

Well not anymore folks. It’s now about the latest piece of technology that will go obsolete in a month only to be replaced by something else, or its cousin with a different name that is essen-

tially the same thing but in a different box.

That aside, Christmas is still a wonderful time of year. I love shuffling my car out of pounds of snow in freezing cold temperatures. No one likes digging out their car, but they can’t help but do it to get to the stores in order to buy more useless crap.

Go figure. Instead, what the corporations and toy companies should do is make something to not only dig your car out, but make it fun, quick and easy. Fat chance of that actually happening.

I mean really, the only thing this holiday really does is it teaches children the valuable lesson of getting dumped on in life, and how to be pandered out for what can only be considered sweat shop prices for lazy people who

would rather shell out the dollars in order to get out of doing the work themselves.

What a valuable and delightful holiday lesson for the future of mankind. It is no surprise why they grow up to not only hate Christmas, but also to eventually have kids of their own in order to perpetuate the cycle. Wow, what a wonderful holiday.

This is why I hate Christmas. This is why I hate this time of year. And, most of all I know ninety percent of you will agree with me, and think the very same thing.

What happened to Christmas, and the true spirit of Christmas? I am sure it still exists, or at the very least can still exist in some small measure somewhere in this chaotic world of corporate consumerism. Can’t it?

## Professional Studies

Continued from page 1

ity/cybersecurity. Being one of only 160 schools in the country accredited by the National Security Agency, NJCU’s Professional Security Department has a major edge over many big-name schools when it comes to the National Security field. Dr. Soo Hoo said that “Undergraduate students [with Bachelor’s degrees] can get a certification from the National Security Agency (NSA) by taking three of our graduate level courses and get certified in Information Security and it’s a great thing to have, especially on a resume. Our Graduate students can take four classes in our Master’s level courses and also get certified as an Information Security Officer; this has, on average, anywhere from a \$7,000 to \$15,000 increase in salary for people who are already Information Security professionals.”

But, what can a National Security major, or minor, actually do with their degree? Dr. Soo Hoo replied, “A lot of them can work in any of the over 17 intelligence communities and it’s actually more because one of those departments is the Department of Homeland Security; it contains 22 separate agencies under it’s umbrella. It’s close to 40 different agencies in total.”

Besides being one of only 160 schools in the country to offer this accreditation, NJCU’s Professional Security department is

*“I can foresee us having a School of National Security Studies with three different departments: National Security, Corporate Security, and Cybersecurity. I definitely see it [growing] to that point one day.”*

Dr. Soo Hoo,  
NJCU Associate Professor

the only school that focuses on leadership, management, and policy, while other schools focus on science, or engineering.

“I can foresee us having a School of National Security Studies with three different departments: National Security, Corporate Security, and Cybersecurity. I definitely see it [growing] to that point one day.”

During a time when public university funding is getting cut, Dr. Collins said that “There may be individuals who may perceive that this program is going to take money away from other programs and it was designed specifically not to do that. Scheduling during off-peak hours and making sure enough money comes in to generate budgeting and funding, help operate the program.”

## Representing your roots

Continued from page 5

*about your company?*

I enjoy the fact that I get to do something I love in every sense of that statement.

G.T: *How much of your life revolves around building your company?*

Right now, my company is 50/50 with school and work.

G.T: *What sets your company apart from others of its kind?*

Personally, the few companies that I did see were in terms of designs and they over charged. They were trying to be a “High Fashion” brand, which is not my motive.

G.T: *If you had to be compared to another company what company would it be and why?*

If I can be compared, it would be to those companies, trying to

break barriers, and do something new with something that got “old.”

G.T: *What have been some of the obstacles you have faced with growing your company?*

MONEY, MONEY, MONEY, and marketing.

G.T: *Where do you see your company in a year? In five years?*

In a year I hope my company is marketed better. In five years, I hope to be more established and also have a way to give back for all the support.

G.T: *Where can your products/services be purchased?*

Http://www.contemporarynegro.com

My Blog: <http://contemporarynegro.tumblr.com>

My Twitter: @ObviouslyAvi

## New Year’s hot spots

Continued from page 5

your New Year’s by watching a marathon for free with Emerald Nuts Midnight run. Starting at 10:30 p.m. there will be music, dancing, a costume parade contest, fireworks and a four-mile race at midnight in Central Park.

Now you don’t have to stretch or pull out your running shoes and most importantly you don’t have to touch your wallet to see this event. You can take the 6,B, N, R, Q, 2, 3 and 1 train all to Central Park.

Last but not least the most popular event till the end of forever: New Year’s Eve ball drop. For the people who love adventure

and the cold, well this is for you. Free to everyone, which is great, no advance ticket and no fancy outfits required.

Make sure you arrive in the city super early, dress in layers because it won’t be a nice sunny day, bring blankets and chairs so you won’t be tired and of course bring your noise makers and funky new years gear.

Located right in Times Square and its right by the Port Authority and a couple of blocks from the PATH train.

Have a safe and an extraordinary New Year’s!

*Editors note: Info provided by TimeOutNY.com and Joonbug.com*

## SPORTS

# 2011-12 NJCU Women's Basketball Preview

By Edgar Rivas, Jr.

The 2010-11 season did not fare well for the NJCU Women's Basketball team. They did not win a single conference game (0-13) or had a good home record (2-10). They had a 6-game losing streak at one point in the season. Their 5-20 overall record eventually led to Sandra Nunez Dates relieved of her coaching duties after nine seasons.

In comes Amy Mulligan. Coach Mulligan played college basketball for the University of Vermont from 1999-2002. She then played for Queens College from 2003-2005. Hired in May, she became the 13th coach in NJCU Women's Basketball history.

"I love it. I enjoy coming to work everyday [and] working with the girls," she said. "It's an exciting place to be right now."

Coach Mulligan wants to improve from the 5-20 record of last season.

"[We need to] get back to fundamentals. We have to work on improving our indi-



Photo by NJCU Office Sports Information  
**Women's Basketball Team  
Coach Amy Mulligan**

vidual play along with our team play," she Mulligan.

NJAC is perhaps the toughest conference there is. Having a good conference record shows that you can compete with the best.

"It's very important to win a conference game because that's our main competition. It would be big for the confidence of the girls and the program to win a conference game," she said.

Home court advantage is basketball's most significant element. The most famous college arenas are known for having great home court advantage. For example, Cameron Indoor Stadium, home of Duke University. It is important the team wins their home games.

"Home court advantage is big for a team because you should be comfortable [playing] there. You should feel better at your game at home oppose to when you're on the road," she said.

Don't expect an instant impact right away. It will take time for this program to be at their greatest potential.

"The next 1-2 years is going to be a rebuilding year. They're getting use to me as a coach, my philosophies, and ways as a coach. I'm getting use to them as players. As we move forward it's going to be an impact," said Mulligan.

Coach Mulligan's expectations for this team are simple, "For all the girls to basically play hard, come with an open mind, and get better day-by-day," she said.

## PLAYERS TO WATCH

### Gabrielle Rivera, 20, Biology, Teaneck, NJ

•Playing her first full season here after transferring mid-season last year: "I actually came in last season and it's a different change for me [compared to] where I was use to. I love playing here."

•On Coach Mulligan:

"She's actually committed. She puts time into us. She'll do anything to make everyone know every play [and] every single drill we're doing."

### Luisa Montalvo, 18, Criminal Justice, Bayonne, NJ

•On making an impact in her rookie season:

"I kind of want to change things around because last year the team wasn't so good. Now we have a bunch of new players, including myself. Hopefully I can set an example."

•On Coach Mulligan:

"She's a really good coach. She goes by doing things correctly. Even the little things, she makes sure that's done correctly."

### Delia Chernes, 20, Professional Security Studies, Union City, NJ

•On why this season will be different than last season:

"As a team we mesh better. We're very together. We have 3 respectable coaches who have experience and know what they're doing."

•On expectations of her teammates:

"Play hard every game, to play smart together, and for us to win or lose together."

### Maria Suarez, 19, Biology (Pre-Med), Cliffside Park, NJ

•On the infamous "Sophomore Slump":

"I don't believe in 'The Sophomore Slump' but I think it's all [about] determination."

•On the team's chemistry:

"It's good, new, [and] it's starting."

## Rob Bielan, NJAC Coach of the Year

By Alex Johanesen

For the first time in history a Gothic Knight women's soccer coach was awarded the New Jersey Athletic Conference Coach of the Year. Coach Rob Bielan, the 2011 recipient, led the team to a 14-8 season, finishing with a post-season appearance in NJAC and ECAC play-offs.

"I wanted to be 500 in the NJAC and bring the team into the play-offs," said Bielan, "It was a goal I set years ago when I first took over the program. We finished 5th in the conference this year."

Since his start in 2006 the team has steadily improved each year. In 2009 the team broke its win record with 13 victories. That year NJCU women's soccer also made its first post-season debut ever as they competed in ECACs. The team improved to 14 wins in 2010, 4 of which were against NJAC competitors and a made a visit to both the NJAC and ECAC tournament.

"We brought in a couple better players to build our foundation, like Jen Albuja, Nicole Sarica, and Erica Buonacquista. When people see three successful women on the field and in the

classroom it attracts them to the university," He added, "This year, a lot of our players came into preseason ready to play. They followed the offseason workouts and they came focused. The seniors came in wanting to push the team further than it's ever gone. The freshmen came in wanting to contribute and make it better for the seniors."

Bielan's career record is 60-60-1; there is a chance the wins will begin to surpass the losses now, especially with his expectations of the players.

"What's helped us is that on my team there are no power kicks. Whether you play for 10 minutes or 90 minutes you don't stop until you're done," said Bielan. "The players get assessed every day so they play hard. I don't think at any other school you will get a genuine opportunity to showcase what you have."

His coaching style allows the team to flourish beyond what has been expected of them. Between the powerhouse offensive duo of Julia Caseres and Jennifer Albuja and the rock solid defense, Bielan must be doing something right.

"I had two kinds of coaches in my life. I've had the role mod-



Photo by NJCU Office Sports

### Coach Rob Bielan

els who stepped up and taught me the right way to coach. Then of course I've had the bad coaches; the ones who didn't have positive reinforcement. I took the good and from the bad I learned how not to treat my student-athletes or my staff," said Bielan.

Now that the Coach of the Year has reached his goal of 500, he hopes to continue to focus on his players. His goals for next season are clear.

"I want to keep my kids on track to graduate on time and to continue being successful in the classroom, which is paramount," said Bielan, "The bar needs to keep raising to make ourselves a force to reckon with."

## Golazoo!

By Alberto Arias

"Playing soccer with your feet is one thing, but playing with your heart is another. Anyone who thinks sunshine is happiness has never played soccer in the rain. Soccer players aren't just made of their technique, but also of their passion," said Walter Avans, 21, marketing major, Roselle Park, NJ.

The Thomas M. Gerrity Athletic Complex will miss the scoring threat next season from their prolific NJCU goal scorer, Walter Avans. On September 4, senior broke the school record, when he erupted for five goals. He spearheaded a charge in which he accumulated 10 points in a 12-1 rout against Medgar Evers.

Earlier this month, the NJCU star forward was recognized for his outstanding play on the field by being selected to the First-Team All-NJAC squad. This award is handed out to only four forwards in the conference and is handpicked by the 10 head coaches. Also, in 2010 he was selected to the Second-Team All-NJAC squad.

"It feels great to be among the top players," said Avans, "Every player trains and works hard to be the best they can be and when others see the hard work and recognize you it's a great feeling."

Avans finished his NJCU career ranked second with an impressive 39 career goals and third with 89 points. He finished the 2011 season with 12 goals and five assists on 29 points in 17 games.

Avans attempted 56 shots (33 shots on goal), scored the first goal of a game three times while bagging a pair of hat tricks, with one game-winner. He led NJCU Gothic Knights in goals, assist,

shots, and shots on goal.

"Cito" as his teammates refer to him, says all his achievements on the field are attributed to his hard work and dedication in the off season. His goal total increased every season as the game began to slow down for him and he grew accustomed to his teammates playing tendencies. His teammates say he plays with the attacking ability of the explosive forward, Sergio Agüero, from Manchester City for his tenacity and determination on the field.

"I'm going to miss all my teammates. They weren't just

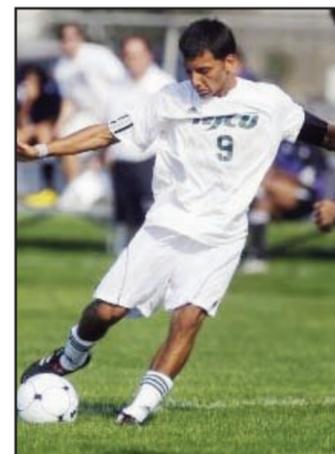


Photo by NJCU Office Sports Information

### Walter Avans

teammates but more like brothers. We always stuck together through thick and thin," added Avans, "It's a great feeling knowing when I went on the field the ten guys around me and the rest of the players and coaches on the bench believed in me and stuck behind me."

Cito plans on resuming his soccer career and will continue to utilize his work ethic to play on the professional level. "It takes an athlete to play soccer, but an artist to be a soccer player."

