

# THE GOTHIC TIMES

*The Official Student Newspaper of New Jersey City University*

Volume XXI, Issue 5

WWW.GOTHICTIMESNETWORK.COM

February 14, 2011

## Proposed Jersey City Police Layoffs Raise Concerns About Security

By Haneen Salem

New Jersey City University students and faculty expressed concern over the proposed layoff of 82 Jersey City Police Officers due to cuts in funding. Police Union stepped in and devised a plan to save the Police jobs.

"I think it's great that people stepped in to save the police jobs! Because of the economic crisis that we have today, the crime rates are up, the more police officers we have in an area like Jersey City the safer we feel," said Sandra Ortega, 20, Secondary Education, Jersey City.

The initial proposition was brought about by Mayor Jeremiah Healy who planned to layoff 82 officers and demote 12 superior officers. The proposed layoffs were the result of the cuts in state funding. Since 2009 there has been an 11 percent decrease in police officers. Newark, Trenton, and Atlantic City were affected the most by the police layoffs.

"Cutting the police for the NJCU neighborhood in particular would have been damaging. The fact that the union bargained for the jobs is commendable and saves 82 jobs and thought of the public good," said Rafael Rojoza, Political Science 24, Jersey City,

According to Melissa Hayes of *The Jersey Journal*, Jersey City

cops and residents protested the proposed layoffs on the streets surrounding Healy's office. On Tuesday January 18, 2011, Healy and Jersey City Police Officers Benevolent Association, a union representing officers of Jersey City, reached an agreement to prevent layoffs.

"I think that the media and public don't understand, for the most part, the fiscal crises that are affecting municipal and state government are due to undermining democracy in our nation; large corruptions are just not being taxed and the public is being damned," said Dr. William Calathes, Graduate Coordinator, Professor in Criminal Justice, activist.

A press release from the office of Mayor Healy stated, "We are happy officers voted in favor of this important agreement. However, this agreement still has to be approved by the City Council, which I am more than confident they will approve." [editors note: the measure was passed.]

Jersey Journal stated that the decision to layoff police would have a great impact on Jersey City because the layoffs were predicted to double the current crime rate.

"Walking in Jersey City at night has become a challenge within itself. I couldn't imagine how terrible it would be if the proposed police layoffs were passed," said Shadel Cortorreal, 20, Economics and Political Science



Photo by NJ.com

Newark Police experienced layoffs in November 2010. A grim possibility for Jersey City Police, if layoffs occur.

major of Newark.

NJCU students had a lot to say about lowering their level of security.

"I understand the money issue, but they are going about it the wrong way. Instead of laying off cops, they should be doing away with the repetitive, excess programs that are obsolete and outdated," said Nicole Boginsky, 18, Psychology major, dorm

student at NJCU.

The agreement gives officers two additional compensation days this year and one additional comp day when they retire. Concessions were made to counter the spending. These came about when the union agreed on a one week pay lag that city officials claim will save Jersey City about 3.5 million this year alone. The police will receive the one

week pay that they gave up when they retire. The police also agreed to push their anticipated raise to a later one in this year.

"Considering the economic crisis this country has and the high crime rate that exists in Jersey City, police officers are who we need the most," said Chelsea Decker, 19, Chemistry major of Jackson, New Jersey.

### STUDENT APPOINTED TO NJCU BOARD OF TRUSTEES



njcu.eu

Chantell Rivera of Jackson, a sophomore at New Jersey City University, has been appointed to the NJCU Board of Trustees. Rafael Perez, Esq. (right), chair of the NJCU Board of Trustees, administered the oath of office to the student trustee at the December meeting of the Board. Dr. Carlos Hernández, NJCU president, joined in the ceremony. Ms. Rivera will serve a one-year term as a non-voting member and the following year as a voting member of the Board. Ms. Rivera is a pre-law student majoring in business management.

## Veteran Presence on NJCU Campus

By Monir Khilla

The adjustment from military to civilian life is not easily accomplished but there is support for Veterans that attend New Jersey City University. The Student Veteran's Organization (SVO) is an independent club on the NJCU campus that brings together veterans from all branches of the military to discuss issues affecting Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation Enduring Freedom (OIF/OEF) veterans.

"Our main goal is to bring awareness to Veteran's issues as they return to society" said Kiril Petrov, 26, Criminal Justice major from Secaucus, "We want to bring up issues and ease issues about going back to regular life."

Marilyn Corona, 25, an English major from Jersey City also points out that one of SVO's goals is "To get the veteran community together as a whole." Corona also notes "There are over 180 veterans on campus."

Is NJCU aware of such a community on campus? According to Corona, "I don't think so, I don't think they know there are so many

on campus, including faculty and staff."

John Krawczyk, 22, a Criminal Justice major from Bayonne also pointed out that, "The Veteran's Organization is overshadowed by other clubs and there's no representation. We hope to let people know we're on campus."

Student veteran David Hayward, 31, History/Secondary Education major from Bayonne said "I take classes more seriously than most students and I don't take any of

The Student Veterans Organization meets on Tuesdays and Wednesdays; alternating between the two days every week in Vodra Hall room 101. (For example the first meeting is Tuesday, February 1 and the following meeting is Wednesday February 9). The meeting starts at 3 pm on Tuesday and 1 pm on Wednesdays. The SVO's focus for this semester is addressing the issue of homeless veterans.

The SVO is aspiring to have more fundraisers and movie nights. Upcoming events include:

- Movie Night, February 24, 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
- Fundraiser, March 21, 10 am. - 7 p.m.

If there are any veterans and non-veterans on campus who are interested in dealing with veteran's issues, the SVO has its doors open. If a veteran needs help reintegrating back into society the SVO is the perfect place to communicate obstacles and problems that keep veterans from successfully returning back into civilian life.

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## NEWS

# African Culture on Display for Black History Month

By Monir Khilla

The New Jersey City University campus will be brimming with events during the month of February for Black History Month. There will be flag raisings, screenings, discussions, guest speakers, and even a Bob Marley Bash during the month of February to honor Black culture and heritage.

The coordination of events was the hard work of many various clubs and organizations that include the Black Administrators, Alumni, Faculty, Students and Staff Organization (BAAFSSO); Black Freedom Society (BFS); Caribbean Students Association (CSA); Haitian Student Association (HSA); African Student Association (ASA); and even the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Friends Alliance (LBGTFA).

Though each club has their own events, there is one message that seems to stick out from the events: "Unity. We need a lot of cultures to come together," said Tyamba Taylor-Lamie, 20, Early

Childhood/Elementary Education major from Newark. "Just because you have different cultures doesn't mean you don't have the same issues."

Ify Ogbo, 25, a Biology major from Newark agrees, saying that one of the goals is creating "Unity, as well as coming together and creating events that honor Black History Month."

Ogbo also said that "one of the reasons we're doing the events is because of all the cutbacks from Mrs. Moody [former SGO treasurer, convicted on federal charges]. We decided to make up for lost time."

Andray Tandacharry, 26, a Biology major from Jersey City said that LBGTFA's role in Black History Month is to "Bring awareness to LBGT issues in minorities, specifically the African Diaspora."

Renata Moreira, Assistant Director for Special Projects said LBGTFA's movie event, "Children of God," is meant to "Create dialogue about sexuality amongst ethnic and racial minorities."

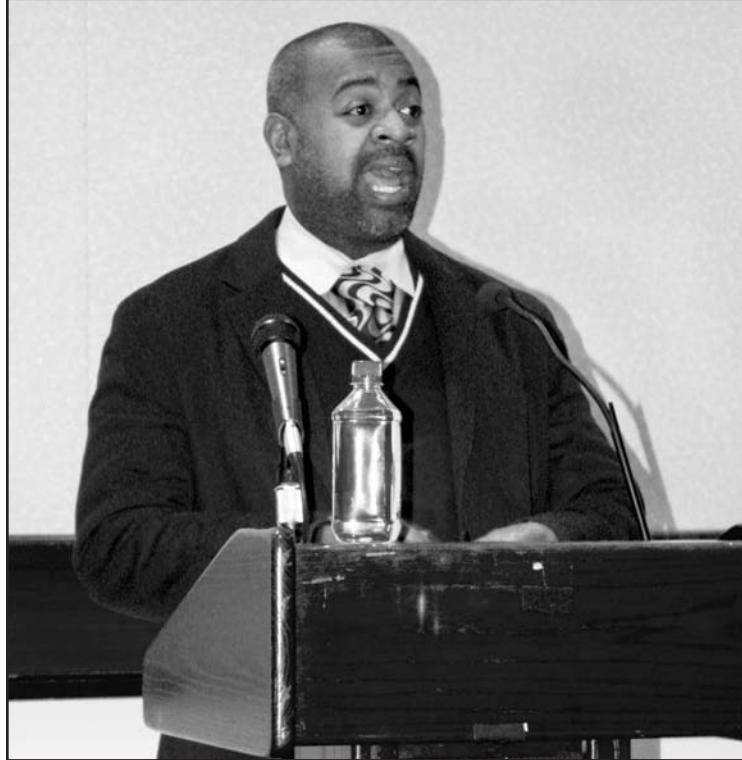
Despite unity being one of the core central aspects of the Black History Month events, there is a bigger message.

Ogbo said that one of the key messages that students should get from all the events is that "There are people who sacrificed their lives for over 200 years to be where we are today" and for "Students to appreciate their culture and remember where history began."

Taylor-Lamie reiterated that the message is not only unity, "But, to bring interest and to learn different things from different cultures."

Be on the lookout for the many scheduled events flooding the Multi-Purpose Rooms and halls of GSUB during the month of February.

**For a complete list of events for Black History Month at NJCU, see page 10**



By Fayruz Uqdah

Ras Baraka speaking at NJCU.

## Ras Baraka Speaks About Activism to Students

By Jan Aguilos

Newark Councilman and principal of Central High School of Newark, Ras Baraka spoke at New Jersey City University on February 2, 2011. He spoke at NJCU's Black Freedom Society club event "History of the Black Panthers." Baraka discussed in his lecture

the advantage of having access to mass communication and technology young people are taking for granted.

"Martin Luther King, Jr. didn't have a Twitter," said Baraka, "Malcolm X didn't have a Twitter."

**Continued on page 11**

## Veteran Presence

Continued from page 1

Petrov agrees as he said "I feel more mature and experienced things in the military that made me appreciate education more."

The military has been in the news recently with the repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell (DADT). Our veterans mostly agree that gays should be allowed to serve openly.

"I am absolutely for allowing anyone who wants to serve their country to be afforded the ability to do so" said Hayward.

Krawczyk said that "Repealing DADT takes the narrow-minded stigma of the military and brings them to 21st century standards."

In recent weeks the idea of females serving in combat arms units was brought up after a military advisory panel suggested that they be allowed to do so.

"Yes, women should serve in combat arms units; if they can hack it, they can do it. We're just as tough as men," said Corona.

Hayward also added, "Women who want equal rights should get equal rights in all areas of life. It is as simple as that."

Petrov agrees but said, "If they [females] want to try out they can, but, they will receive equal treatment. Both parties should be treated the same way."

Krawczyk added, "Just because women are women doesn't mean they shouldn't be able to be in certain roles."

## WORD ON CAMPUS:

### IF you could change something at NJCU....



Daniel Rivera, 26,  
Bayonne, NJ,  
Journalism Major

I would definitely change the prices on books.



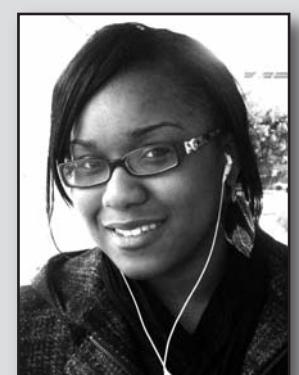
Cindy Lowe, 24,  
Jersey City,  
Alumni 10,  
Business Administration

I would add more parking spaces



Andrea Squillante,  
18, Bayonne, NJ,  
Psychology Major

I would want the elevators to be fixed.



Shareena Mitchell,  
20, Jersey City,  
Criminal Justice

I would put more life on campus.



Shaniquah Hart,  
20, Jersey City,  
Undecided

I would like to change the Financial Aid Benefits.



Veronica Garcia,  
22, Dorming,  
Criminal Justice

Free books, because they are too expensive.

## EDITORIAL

# It Is What It Is at NJCU

**A** January 30 *Star-Ledger* article stated that New Jersey City University finished last in students graduating in four years. The data provided by the Department of Education in 2008 said that "only 6 percent of NJCU students graduate within four years."

Obviously this isn't a statistic that is going to be flaunted on NJCU brochures, but it is a sobering and realistic look at the state of NJCU and the education policies of New Jersey.

As grim as the statistic looks, it isn't an accurate representation of the university because the *Star-Ledger* failed to mention that most New Jersey colleges and universities, generally freshmen, have less than a 50 percent chance of getting a bachelor's degree in four years. It is a myopic view if we see this solely as failure.

Historically, NJCU has been serving the diverse denizens of Jersey City that are made up of immigrants, low-income students, and for many, a first at the chance of earning a college degree in their families.

The article cites that a reason why graduation rates are low

might be due to the remedial classes that students have to take, therefore, extending their time past the 'standard' four years completion.

Why is there such an emphasis on graduating within four years? This goal seems unrealistic because most curriculums are changing and increasing their requirements. With the recent cutbacks in financial aid, students have dealt with taking out loans or changing from full-time status to part-time.

Considering that a large number of students rely on financial assistance at NJCU, there is a correlation with timely graduation. Essentially, making the elusive four year graduation rate a challenging goal, but not impossible.

In a September 2010 *Gothic Times* interview, President Hernandez put emphasis on the notion of fostering an intellectual environment at NJCU, instead of students wanting a "cookie-cutter" education.

*Ed. Note: see Star Ledger chart below for the complete list of statistics on New Jersey colleges.*

# Walk Like an Egyptian

**W**e support the people of Egypt in their struggle of yearning to be free and we especially applaud the boldness they're showing in the streets. Hundreds of thousands of anti-government protesters have packed Tahrir Square in Cairo and other squares around the country and have vowed not to leave until President Hosni Mubarak resigns his dictatorship of more than 30 years.

Mubarak is seen as the great Arab ally to the United States and Israel.

His absence in the region is feared because it might destabilize the Middle East and cause tensions between the Arab World and Israel to escalate.

Too late, the New Arab Revolution, which started in Tunisia and has now spread to Egypt, has changed the consciousness of the status quo in the Middle East. Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and others be warned either relinquish power to your citizens or these mass protests are coming your way.

Democracy is the agency of the movement, not Islamic funda-

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# THE GOTHIC TIMES

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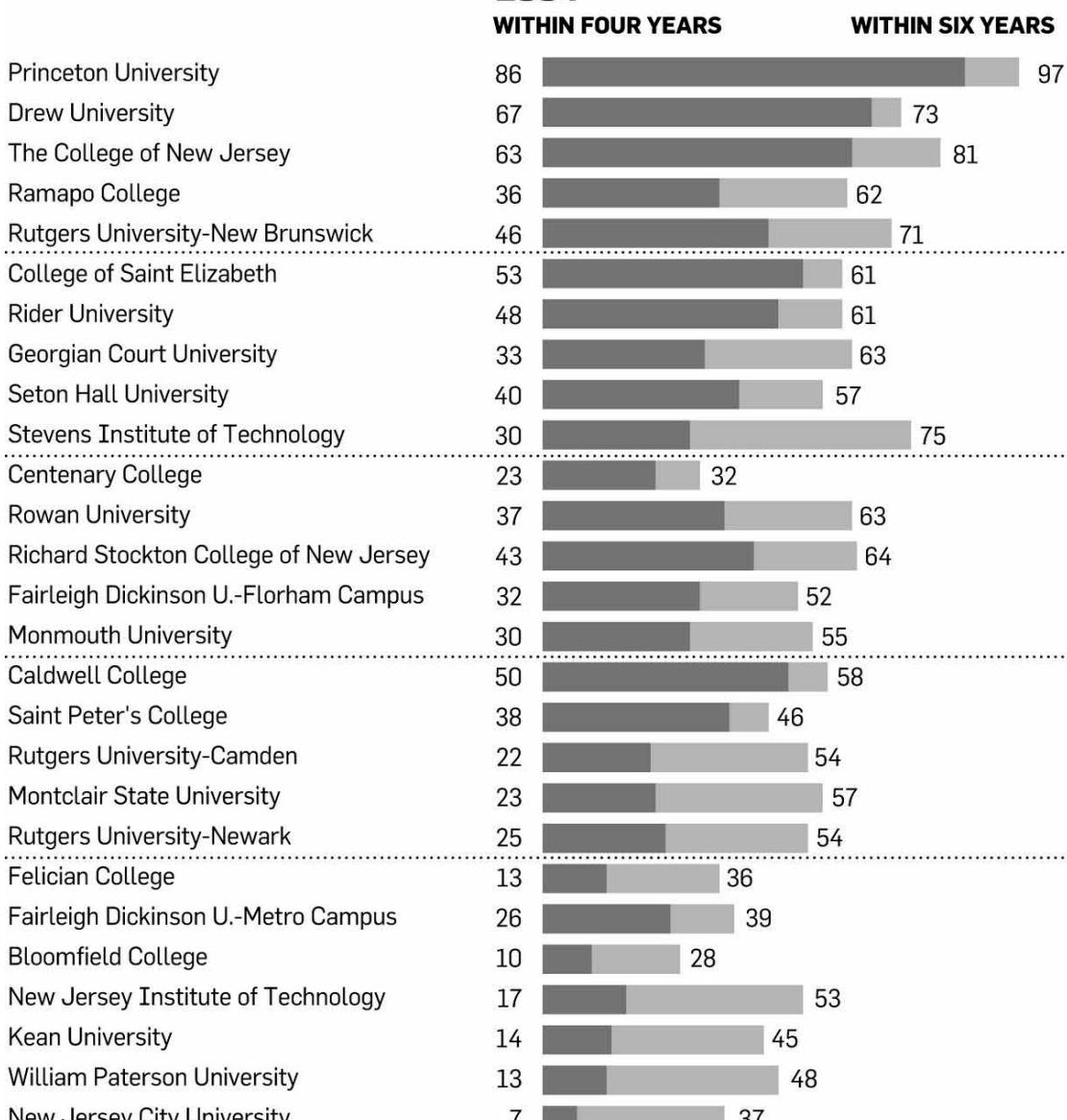
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## GRADUATION RATES AT NEW JERSEY COLLEGES

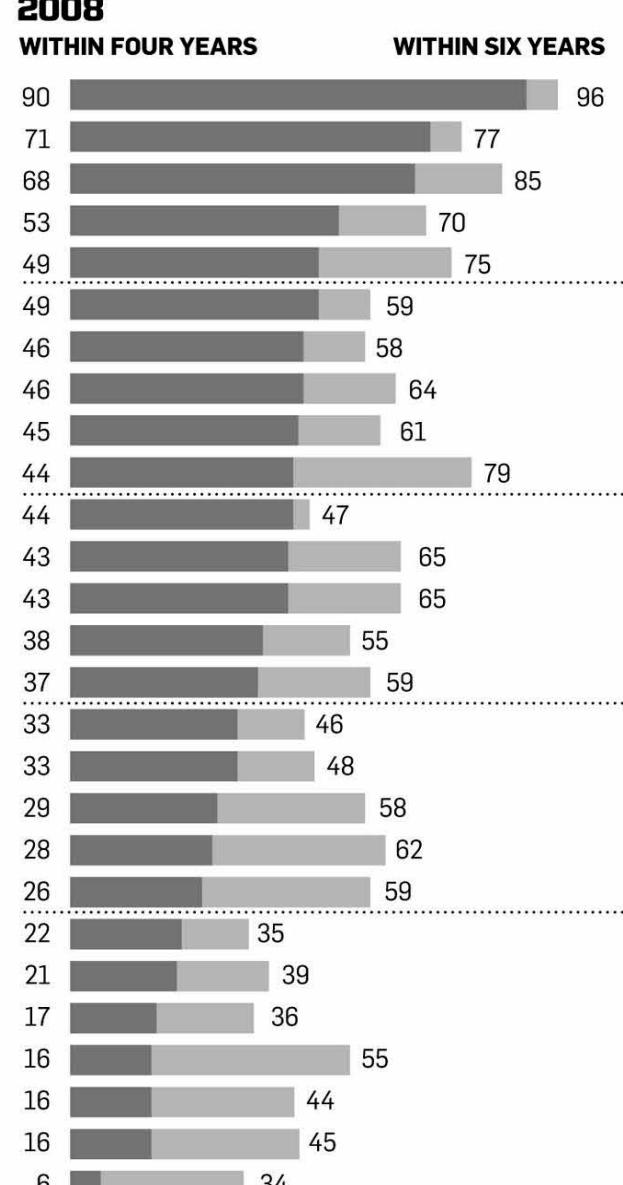
*The federal Department of Education requires colleges and universities to submit data on how many of their freshmen graduate in either four or six years. The numbers include only full-time students who had never previously been to college. A Star-Ledger analysis of the numbers shows the chances of graduating in four years are slim at many of the state's public and private schools. The colleges say the numbers are low for several reasons, including students dropping out, transferring to other colleges, switching majors or working and delaying their graduation.*

### Percentage of freshmen who graduate within four or six years

#### 2004



#### 2008



*Source: Data reported by colleges to U.S. Department of Education/Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS)*

THE STAR-LEDGER

## OPINION

# Charter Schools: Facts and Experience

By Monir Khilla

Governor Chris Christie approved the passing of legislation that would make it easier to open charter schools in New Jersey. Many wonder what charter schools are and how they differ from public schools. Charter schools are schools that have less regulation than district public schools and are not influenced by unions. Charter schools measure their success through a pre-negotiated contract that details its missions, goals, method of assessment and how they measure that success.

You might think that leaving a school to measure its own success would lead to a low standard and poor performance rate but you are wrong. A January 23 *Star-Ledger* article written by Julie O'Connor noted that economists, Thomas Kane from Harvard University and Caroline Hoxby from Columbia University, have concluded that most charter schools not only meet standards of education but outperform public schools. Caroline Hoxby noted that for New York schools students who attended charter school from K-8 substantially outperformed their public school counterparts.

The New Jersey Department of Education has reported that there were 19 charter schools closed down from 1992-2009. But, why? Money. Charter schools receive only 70% of what a district pub-



Photo by Jan Aguilos

Monir Khilla

lic school receives in funding per-pupil. Actually, poor academic performance has only been the reason for the closing of 4 of the 19 charter schools. More than half of the others were due to financial and facilitative reasons.

So if you're a parent or sibling who is considering where to send your children or brothers and sisters to school, are charter schools the right choice? Here's where the experience comes in.

I went to The Golden Door Charter School from 5th to 7th grade in Jersey City. At the time, the charter school was relatively new and we did not have a facility. We were in trailers in a parking lot near Christopher Columbus Drive and the 5th grade was the top grade for the school. Even though three grades is a short time, I learned so much because the teachers were excellent. In fact, the reason why my stay

was so short was that I made the top percentile in the country for kids in my grade. I didn't go to the eighth grade because the education and the knowledge I had retained allowed me to skip a grade.

There were after school programs in which teachers stayed with kids to help them. There was even a color-coded parent-based disciplinary system. If you got a bad color you'd lose your recess. Still misbehaved? Your parents would be contacted. If you were bad enough your parents would get called up and you'd be sent home.

With a record of better education and better discipline it's a wonder how charter schools produce more bang for your buck. There is currently a waitlist of up to 20,000 students for charter

*"I didn't go to the eighth grade because the [charter school] education and the knowledge I had retained allowed me to skip a grade."*

schools in New Jersey. With the opening of new charter schools this year, the governor wants to lower the waitlist number and give more students and parents a better option when it comes choosing a school.

New Jersey City University students who have kids or are expecting to have children should make charter schools a viable option.

*"Students who attended charter school from K-8 substantially outperformed their public school counterparts."*

## Editorial

# Walk like an Egyptian

Continued from page 3

mentalist.

Don't only look at the protests but listen to them as well. They're not chanting the usual chorus of "Death to America" and its allies. But rather, they are singing similar slogans that American patriots shouted 200 years ago: No taxation without representation.

Even the much talked about radical group, the Muslim Brotherhood has opted to sit at the table and participate in a democratic way. If only Al Qaeda could be so radical.

*New York Times'* columnist Nicholas Kristof who was reporting from Cairo wrote, "We are all Egyptians now" and his article goes on to say "lion-hearted Egyptians are willing to die for democracy." The Arab World has finally had enough of being ruled by corrupt despots and dictators.

Democracy can bridge the gap between East and West. If this actually takes hold in Egypt, Israel and the West will be safer.

Democracies don't tend to go to war with each other. Turkey might disagree with Israel at



Getty Images

Two men carry an Egyptian flag into Tahrir square.

times and vice-versa, but it is unlikely Israelis and Turks would allow their governments to war with each other; even if it's in regards to Gaza.

It's unclear what kind of government Egypt will have once Mubarak is ousted. Only his demise is certain. We hope for a free and democratic society in Egypt. The Egyptians now control their destiny and like President Barack Obama said,

"There's no going back."

Inevitably as the spring roars

in, New Jersey City University will start having its own "protest season." Students will take the cause for tuition increases, the Dream Act and everything else that ails our campus community. Usually, what starts with so much thunder and promise goes out without a whimper.

We say this season, remember what you can accomplish if you use Twitter and Facebook – don't just poke your friends but unify them instead.



google.com

## Where is the soul of NJCU?

By Rabiah Bhatti

New Jersey City University's diverse student population fails to exhibit the school spirit necessary to make NJCU grow stronger as a social community. NJCU is often characterized as a "commuter's college" because dorm students are outnumbered by students who commute. Most students who commute leave campus as soon as their classes are done and show little or no interest in campus events and clubs. This creates a cold and distant relationship between students and NJCU.

A closely-knit campus family is far from reach because most students like to leave campus as soon as possible and fail to notice any social events and academic conferences taking place. Invitations and flyers are lodged into garbage cans, in couch seats and left indifferently on cafeteria and library tables.

"It's very frustrating trying to get students to attend events especially because you know they are free but just don't want to attend. They make up excuses over and over again," said Javairia Ahmad, 21, English and Early Childhood Education major at NJCU and president of the Muslim Student's Association club. "It's a struggle as well because some people are not open minded to learn about new things."

It is understandable why students who work full time are not able to attend campus events, but I see a significant number of students who do not participate because they are too lazy, uninformed and unresponsive. These are the students that are often seen vegetating on the Gilligan Student Union Building and Guarini Library couches and refuse to attend a conference or event.

"I think students don't like to take part in campus activities because they are lazy, or either they really have no time for it or they just don't want to be part of it. Also, it could be that they work a full time job and take only night classes," said Adam Hindi, 23, Media Arts alumnus.

Harmonious piano recitals, brilliant conferences and panel discussions and various dance events are ignored and lose the attention they deserve.

"Getting people to show up to your events can be frustrating: One, because you must make sure that flyers are handed out and secondly your members are not spreading the word," said Julio Santodomingo, 24, Psychology/Philosophy major and the president of NJCU's Salsa Club, "I mean all

*"It is understandable why students who work full time are not able to attend campus events, but I see a significant number of students who do not participate because they are too lazy, uninformed and unresponsive."*

we can do is try and hope that when it's time for the event, the seats get magically filled in and all our work is worth it."

The way students decline and ignore taking part in activities shows that the soul of NJCU has withered away and is dying a slow death. In order to revitalize the campus community we must ask ourselves why we are hesitant to create a stronger connection with our campus. We have to lift ourselves up from our couches and make it our priority as students to become more informed and involved in the social and academic platforms of our campus. Club members and officers need to take out time from their busy schedules to encourage classmates to attend events, conference and meetings. In addition, the responsibility of rejuvenating the campus is not only on the shoulders of students but professors as well. Professors need to take initiative to find out what types of extracurricular events NJCU is hosting and inspire their students to attend them.

Most importantly, both faculty and students have to learn to work together outside of the classroom; even if it means giving up a little personal time.

**BUSINESS****The Cost of Being a Single Parent**

By Oriana Sweeney

**E**ditor's Note: The U.S. Government reported last summer the estimated cost of raising a child from birth to age 17 was around \$222,360 as a result of rising childcare and education expenses. In its annual Expenditures on Children and Families report, The Department of Agriculture reported a 22 percent increase on child raising costs in the period from 1960 through 2009.

Single parents represent a large portion of the student body at New Jersey City University. Since they have to provide for their children, obtaining a degree becomes a necessity in order to open up more opportunities. Sometimes this means that single parents have to sacrifice spending quality time with their child in order to maintain financial stability.

Providing a child with the basic



google images

needs such as hospital expenses for when the child gets sick and paying for day care is overwhelming when bills have to be paid. In some situations, single parents have to choose between paying the rent and feeding their child.

Day care services are expensive with some charging at about \$150 a week; not including after care for single parents who work longer hours.

"I literally spent up to \$10,000 from the time he [Persaud's son]

was born until now and he is almost two years old. It's like as they grow it becomes very expensive," said Tia Persaud, 21, Early Childhood / RN Nurse Major.

Before single parents can make plans to work late or attend classes at night, arrangements must be made for their children first.

"I had to stop going to school because it was too much for me to handle. I had to learn to balance school, work, and taking care of my son," said Deborah Futrell, 23, Education/English major.

Also, single parents face the stress of not having a strong support system to rely on to help provide and care for their children.

"It's a constant struggle when I have to schedule things around my son like attending school, working, and setting time aside to complete all of my assignments especially when the father is not one hundred percent involved in his life," said Tia Persaud.

**PENNY-PINCHING:  
Smart Ways for Students  
to Save Money**

By Brian Flores

**W**ith the beginning of the new semester, many students have made a pledge to save more money as part of their new year's resolution. It is essential for college undergraduate students to maintain and keep control of their budgets.

One way New Jersey City University students can save money is by taking advantage of the services and facilities that the campus has to offer. For example, the Hudson/Bergen Light Rail offers a 25 percent discount for students purchasing a monthly pass. In order to receive the discount students can sign into their GothicNet account, and click on the "Campus Life" link on the left-hand side of the screen and follow the NJCU/NJ Transit Rider link on the bottom left of the page. The link will lead to instructions on how to enroll in the NJCU/NJ Transit Rider Program.

Students who enjoy shopping should ask for student discounts at stores. There are many retailers who have student discounts and all that is needed is a valid school ID card. These discounts are usually unadvertised and one of the industry's best kept secret. For example, J. Crew clothing company offers a 15 percent discount to students. Electronic retailers such as Apple, Hewlett Packard, and Dell offer about 10-

15 percent discounts on certain products and students can check out upcoming sales.

In addition, for entertainment, Broadway shows offer savings of up to 50 percent for select shows to college students. NJCU students can also inquire about tickets to events at the office of Campus Life located on the first floor of the Gilligan Student Union Building. Also, instead of spending hundreds of dollars for a gym membership, NJCU students can work out at the John J. Moore Athletics Center. The facility houses a swimming pool, indoor track, basketball court, Paramount exercise machines, Stairmasters, exercise bikes, treadmills, rowing machines, and free weights.

To save on textbooks, check websites such as NEEBO.com because they offer free book rentals to students. There is one catch; all you have to do is become a fan of their website on Facebook and "Like" them. In addition, New Jersey City University's bookstore is also providing students with book rentals at a reduced cost for textbooks.

**Editor's Note:** A helpful website to compare prices on textbooks online is Addall.com, you can browse hundreds of online stores and find the best deals with just one click. Savings range from 20 percent to even 80 percent of bookstore retail prices.



Are you a student who would like to build your portfolio, gain real world experience, network with new friends, and help save lives? The American Marketing Association is a prestigious organization that is recognized nationally with over 13,000 collegiate & 25,000 professional members. The purpose of the AMA is to give students the opportunity to build leadership skills and develop real world marketing skills that will set them apart in the competitive job market. Membership grants you access to bank jobs, business events, podcasts, & networking opportunities.

**AMA Phone number:** (201) 305 – 9262

**AMA Webpage:** <http://web.njcu.edu/assoc/njcuama>

**Facebook Page:** <http://www.facebook.com/njcu.ama>

This club is open to ALL majors. Join us for a meeting every Tuesday from 12-2 p.m. in Rossy Hall room number 324.

**It's your business—speak up**

Interviews &amp; Photographs by Brian Flores

**As part of the new year resolution, how do you plan to save money this semester?"**

"Because I work in a clothing store it is hard to not purchase the newest items, so I buy merchandise on sale."

Scarlett Santiago  
20 years old,  
North Bergen,  
Psychology major



Jovanni Ibarra  
23 years old,  
Fairview,  
Media Arts major

"I set up an online banking account that directly deposits money into my emergency account. [It is] different from my savings and checking account."



Julio Santodomingo  
24 years old,  
Cliffside Park,  
Philosophy major

"I try to schedule my classes all in one or two days, so I won't have to spend more on transportation, food and parking."



Fatima Terry,  
23 years old,  
Kearny,  
Psychology major



Ghislaine Barbon 20  
years old, West New  
York, Biology major

"I like to rent my books from Chegg.com, which is great because they plant a tree in your name for each order."

"I've made a savings box at home that I try to save at least half of my money. At the end of the month, I go to the bank and deposit it. I was actually able to go on vacation this past break with some of the money that I saved."

## ARTS

# Matthew Lahm: *In the Flesh*

**By Abdoulaye Camara**

New Jersey City University alumnus, Matthew Lahm is a talented painter whose work has been featured in the *Gothic Times*, the *Jersey Journal*, *The Hudson Reporter* and the *Star Ledger*. His art has been exhibited in numerous galleries and art centers in New Jersey, New York, Chicago and Cuba. He graduated in 2005 from NJCU with a BFA in fine arts.

**What kind of reaction do most people get when they look at your paintings?**

I have heard some pretty outrageous interpretations of my work.



www.jerseycityindependent.com

**"Shame"** by William Coronado

They are always unique to the individual. How the viewer navigates the dichotomies is about his or her own psychology and persuasions.

**What's your creative process for making a flesh painting? Do you work with photo references or from real life?**

I begin with photographs because the paintings must be of the body. Since my compositions involve contortions from my models, it is impossible for poses to be maintained for longer than a few minutes. People who never studied anatomy recognize correct anatomy when they see it. If I just invented fleshy forms and

masses they would be horrific. I take a lot of liberties with the color and paint application. Once I have worked out a composition, I commit it to memory. For the final painting I paint mostly without the reference. The experience of communicating the flesh is about me and not about copying a picture.

**How do you decide which body part to focus on?**

I focus on the "in between" areas of the body and I finalize my compositions when I see that the whole cannot be

determined from the fragment. We don't have names for the "in between" spaces of the body. By finding ambiguous compositions, I can bring the viewer through an intuitive interaction with the human form free from such associations.

**Do you have any words of advice for aspiring artists?**

Do art for yourself and be honest in your work. When I stopped worrying about what I should communicate and just expressed what I thought and felt, being an artist got a lot easier. I also make it a point to remain detached from my work. I don't fall in love with it nor do I take it to the other extreme of being overly critical. Both scenarios can be disastrous. If you are too in love with your own work, it is hard to recognize failure. By the same token, being overly critical can blind one's eye



www.matthewlahmart.com

**Paintings by Matthew Lahm.**

to achievements. Above all, be curious and focus on the questions art is as much about discovery as

it is about expression. Above all, keep working! What makes an artist is doing art after all.

# Jersey's Jazzy Freestyle Art

**By Abdoulaye Camara**

On January 22, *All City: Artwork by Jersey City's Finest* exhibition that was curated by S.N.C. Inc and Redemption Arts took place in downtown, Jersey City, on Newark Ave. The unique urban art conveyed the diversity of style and culture in our city. The works ranged from giant airbrushed portraits to small marker illustrations, photography and graffiti. There were also several mixed media collages, three-dimensional design, t-shirts, and jewelry.

One of the artists representing the culture is NJCU alumnus, Ivan Petrovsky, a 2009 graduate with a B.F.A in Drawing and a Painting concentration. Petrovsky goes by the moniker Mr. Mustart and his jazzy, colorful artwork is composed of collages, paintings and marker illustrations. His work has been featured in Jersey City, Newark, Summit, Trenton, Philadelphia and New York City galleries.

**"Thug Life"**

**How would you describe your style and how long have you been doing this type of art?**

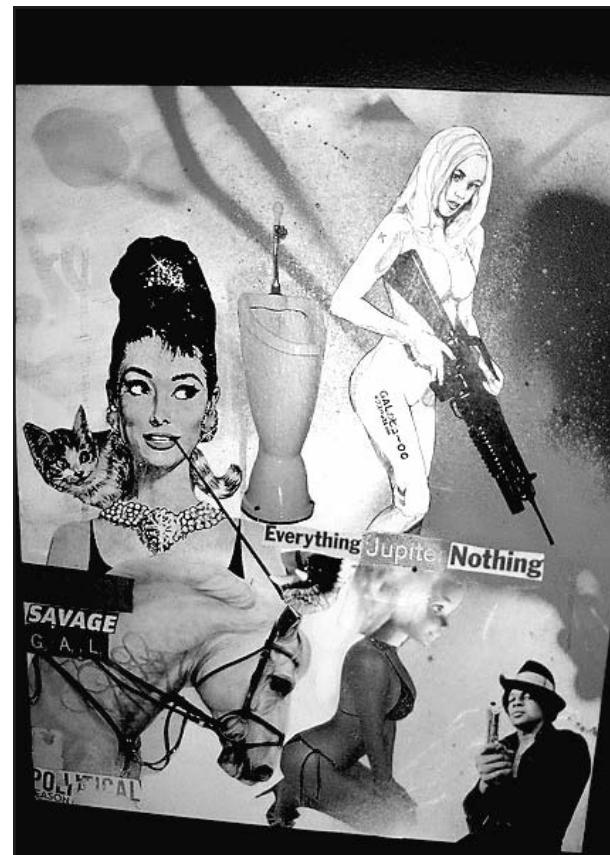
Well I would call my style free. I'm free to collect and pick out the imagery I want to use, I'm free when I bring these concepts, images and colors together, and you are free to interpret the work on your own.

I've been creative my whole life, and my objects and subject matters have changed throughout the years. I would say my jazzy [style] years started in 2003.

**Most of your works have a political message or a critique on society. Is there a reason for that?**

They have anti-political messages about the corruption of all politicians and people in power.

**What other types of art do you do? Have you done any digital artwork?**

**"Breakfast for Hire"**all images from www.flickr.com/operation\_art  
**"Mr. Kleen"**

## ENTERTAINMENT

# Guitar Sunday: With Eliot Fisk

By Jose E. Ortiz

**A**ccording to [www.eliotfisk.com](http://www.eliotfisk.com), Eliot Fisk is known worldwide as one of the most creative and exciting musicians. He has traveled across the globe to schools, senior centers, logging camps and prisons to perform his music. Fisk has recorded numerous albums that introduce the different styles of guitar music internationally. Many of his records have been entered in the Billboard charts as best sellers.

On February 6, 2011, Fisk visited the Ingalls Recital Hall at New Jersey City University. NJCU's Coordinator of Guitar Studies, Dr. Ana María Rosado, speaks about the event "Guitar Sunday: With Eliot Fisk."

**Q: What is "Guitar Sunday" about?**

A: I put this event together every year to present a world-class, classical guitarist who is willing to teach a massive class of students. Therefore, they [students] will get the exposure as the audience members to the top level of performance standard in the world. It gives the audience and the rest of the school the opportunity to hear incredible musicians. By having a master class

combined, it gives them [students] the opportunity to play for these people and get advice from them. Also, it adds to their resume that they played for these big names in the guitar community.

**Q: How long did it take to prepare this event?**

A: It takes eight months before to set it up and then it is a matter of preparing the programs, sending the flyers a month before and about three weeks to put posters up in the buildings on campus.

**Q: Who is Eliot Fisk?**

A: He is a very innovative and adventuresome guitarist who plays a lot of new music, but does his own transcriptions of music of the past. Fisk's virtuosity, level of playing and technique is amazing. Elliot Fisk is someone who will go where there is an audience to play [for] because he

believes in the cause of bringing culture to the people. [He believes in] not just saving culture for elite places, but also going and reaching out to the audience. This makes him a popularizer of culture and that he wants to bring culture to the people.

**Q: Will there be more performances from him this semester?**

A: No, this is a onetime



[www.last.fm](http://www.last.fm)

Eliot Fisk

event. The opportunity to present a figure such as Eliot Fisk in this setting comes because I had some personal contact with him and he accepted the invitation to me personally. Normally, he presents himself in very big venues like the 92nd St. Y, Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall. It is an opportunity for us to hear somebody who normally would not be playing in a small venue such as Ingalls Recital Hall in New Jersey City University. That is not to say that we are not an important place, it is just that the kind of performance venues that he likes to play are larger than normal.

**Q: What kind of music are we going to expect?**

A: I would really like to answer that, but he is going to choose the pieces that he plays [according to what] he feels that day. I asked him "you want to give me the list of pieces you'll play?" and he said, "I want to see who's in the audience before I play."

*..Eliot Fisk is someone who will go where there is an audience to play [for] because he believes in the cause of bringing culture to the people. He [believes in], not just saving cultures for elite places, but also going and reach out to the audience..."*

— Anna Maria Rosado



[www.phillyguitar.org](http://www.phillyguitar.org)

Ana Maria Rosado (left)

## Instigatorzine Mag: NJCU Students Create and Instigate Creativity

By Jan Aguilos

**N**ew Jersey City University seniors Keith Chiappone and Narciso Espiritu Jr. had been friends for a few years when they started an independent art and literary magazine named *Instigatorzine* ([instigatozine.com](http://instigatozine.com)).

"If I had gotten someone and said that I had a business proposition, it would be more business than passion right now. Money isn't a huge factor, since Narciso and I are friends," said Chiappone 23-year-old, English and Secondary Education major of Bayonne.

The idea began in January 2010 and came into fruition when it was published for the first time in February 2010.

"I wrote a piece in my memoir class that I was really proud of," said Chiappone, Editor-In-

Chief of *Instigatorzine*, "So I got this writer's market book for 2010 and I highlighted all of the New Jersey publishers."

Since Chiappone found only

*"I see a lot of people who get great ideas but they don't have the motivation to go through with them. It's just amazing how they decided, 'Hey, I want to do something' and they did it."*

— Jenna Kildosher

three publications in New Jersey that would publish a memoir similar to the one he had written, he decided to create the *Instigatorzine* with Espiritu. Both men admitted that the name would resemble an act of defiance against the limited options that writers and professional illustrators face.

"With a magazine, you want to be able to have this platform for people who don't have [one]," said Espiritu, Lead Arts Editor who assigns artwork to illustrators that relates to each story.

*Instigatorzine* features mostly short fiction stories with accompanying illustrations

"I think what sets us apart from other magazines is that other magazines use stock pictures. They use pictures that are vaguely related but our art work is made especially for that piece,"

Continued on page 10



[www.livescribe.com](http://www.livescribe.com)

The many uses of the smartpen.

## The Echo Smartpen from Livescribe

By Jose E. Ortiz

**T**he Echo Smartpen from Livescribe is the perfect gadget to help put all your notes together and keep them safe for studying. The Smartpen comes with a built-in microphone to capture lectures and speeches during class, a built-in speaker that plays back what you've recorded, an audio jack to listen to your recordings in private, and an OLED display to help navigate through the Smartpen's applications. It also holds four to eight gigabytes of memory so you can save your notes and upload them to your computer, iPhone and iPad.

Here is how it works:

The pen records as you write as well as what your professor is saying. Simply tap "Record" in the Starter Dot Paper Notebook, and when finished tap "Stop." Al-

so, you can link audio to different sections of your notes to hear what was said. So not only do you have your own notes, you have your professor's as well.

With the Smartpen your written work can be saved and accessed through a program called Livescribe Desktop (downloadable). Not only can you save all of your notes, you can share them without lending them to your friends. By using a "Pencast" you can create a movie of your notes and audio which can be sent to your friends via Email, blog, Facebook, etc. You can also save your hand written notes as a PDF file and send them to your friends.

With the Echo Smartpen you can take the classroom with you anywhere and anytime. So this year, think smart with the Echo Smartpen. To learn more, go to [www.livescribe.com](http://www.livescribe.com).



[www.instigatozine.com](http://www.instigatozine.com)

Instigatorzine Mag, Issue 9, December 2010.

## LIFESTYLE



# Camara Brothers

## Cash It

By Jan Aguilos

**T**wo brothers, Moustapha Camara, a 20-year-old Marketing major, and AJ Camara, a 22-year-old Illustration major taking a few semesters off, have had entrepreneurial yearnings since their teens.

*AJ and Moustapha used to work on their company in the Frank J. Guarini Library on the NJCU campus*

The two are the third and fourth in birth order among five siblings, four of which have attended or are currently attending NJCU. The Camara brothers who live across the street from NJCU's campus, use their artistic talents to sustain the company, Cashletes LLC.

AJ was the last of the five siblings to be born in Guinea and Moustapha was born in New York. Their father, who gave them books on financial success, was a diplomat for the United Na-

tions and their mother owns a hair salon.

"My father had a lot of books about getting rich and he would read them," said Moustapha Camara, 20, a junior majoring in Marketing at New Jersey City University.

Cashletes LLC serves as an umbrella company that has four ventures: the Cashletes clothing line ([cashletes.com](http://cashletes.com)), the T-Shirt Magazine online ([t-shirt-magazineonline.com](http://t-shirt-magazineonline.com)), Brandx-Hype ([brandxhype.com](http://brandxhype.com)) for higher end web site design, and Theme Fiend ([themefiend.com](http://themefiend.com)), which provides web site templates.

AJ and Moustapha used to work on their company in the Frank J. Guarini Library on the NJCU campus but have been renting a Hoboken office space since July

2010. AJ, more stolid than his younger brother, serves as the artistic visionary and Moustapha, with an ease in speaking and smiling, seems more than willing to play the part of the congenial salesman.

AJ and Moustapha say they have lost count of how many businesses have come and gone. However, they've been increasing their attention to the Cashletes clothing line they started as teenagers. The clothing line includes hats, t-shirts, sweat shirts, jackets and accessories.

AJ came up with the idea to include fictional sports teams for the Cashletes clothing line. There are the "New York Paper Chasers," "Philadelphia Benjamins," "Miami Rainmakers," "Houston Hustlers" and other teams in a nod to sports branding.

"How we select our products is based on sports merchandise," said AJ on their array of apparel, "If you look at any NFL team,



www.clipart.com

there's no Jets sneakers but you'll find Jets t-shirts, hats, sweat shirts, all that. That's kind of like what the brand is mimicking, somewhat like a parody on sports themes, so we put out apparel based on that."

"The story behind Cashletes overall, is that for the past five years we've just been trying to find ways to make money using our talents," explained AJ. Initially, their early enterprises were inventions of necessity, with the brothers needing to fund a hip-hop comic book they created when AJ was 17 and Moustapha 15.

The Cashletes clothing line requires the most funding out of the four companies under Cashletes LLC.

"For Cashletes to sustain itself,

it doesn't necessarily need funding but to grow we need funding from the other projects," said Moustapha, "If one project's doing bad we're able to fund it with the other project."

On their entrepreneurial spirit, AJ clarified: "I've had one real job and that was for three months and [Moustapha] never had a job. We don't like jobs. We don't really like having a boss."

# LUPUS: Meet It! Greet It! Embrace It!

By Angela Giddings

**S**ince I can remember, my mother had Lupus. I didn't really know much about how it affected her. I don't remember why we never discussed her illness in detail. She like many people in my family doesn't allow their pain to show, which is a characteristic that is both a gift and a curse. I don't remember my mother being sick too often but I do remember her being in pain from time to time. I also remember her always stressing the importance of her need to wear

*"Although you appear to be healthy there is a lot going on inside. It's like a nicely wrapped gift sitting on a shelf. Until you pick it up and shake it you will never know that the pieces inside are shattered."*

sunscreen 365 days out of the year.

In the fall of 2006 I began to feel very ill and shared my symptoms with my mother for three reasons. The first because she is a registered nurse and is very knowledgeable about medical issues. The second reason, I was having symptoms that I vaguely remember her describing over the course of my childhood and the third reason because she is my mother.

Five years later I still experience many of the same symptoms and although I haven't been officially diagnosed with anything, Lupus is still a possibility. For this reason I was inspired to shed light on the medical mystery. I decided to go straight to the source and in doing so I learned many things about my mother that I never knew.

Adrienne Mathews, Nursing Supervisor for the Office of Early Childhood for The Newark Public Schools and Alumna of New Jersey City University, class of 1994, has had Lupus since August 1985. She first learned of Lupus as a teenager when her mother was diagnosed. As a registered nurse Mathews had worked with many patients who

battled the illness before she learned she had it.

I asked her to recall the day she was diagnosed.

"I remember it as if it were a recent event. I was 35 years old when I was diagnosed with Systemic Lupus Erythematosus. I was relieved and scared at the same time. I was always healthy. I became very ill and was not able to work. I was in a lot of pain, nauseated all the time, could not walk because I always felt like I was falling, a severe headache and continuous back pain for about 2 - 2 1/2 weeks. All the normal tests and blood work came back normal."

Mathews said she was lucky because someone with Lupus can go years without being diagnosed. She, however, was diagnosed in two days. What helped in such a speedy diagnosis was her knowledge of her family history. Her mother, paternal aunt and a few of her cousins had already been diagnosed with the illness. Although she had prior education about Lupus, it was the farthest thing from her mind in relation to the symptoms she was having.

"A diagnosis of Lupus was not even a consideration. Many of my

symptoms presented as a possible Kidney Stone. While I was being tested for that I had a reaction to the dye being injected into me as part of the procedure.

I was having difficulty breathing and was starting to pass out and a call for CODE BLUE was made. I was very scared. I had many patients who, because they could not breathe, end up on a respirator for the rest of their lives. All I thought about was my children. They gave me medications to counteract the dye and then I was stable again. However, for about 7 - 10 days I could not go anywhere because I kept having panic attacks and trouble breathing when I moved around. That, in time, subsided."

Lupus can present many difficulties in one's life. For Mathews, the biggest challenge was taking care of her children.

"I was the only person taking care of my two children and working anywhere from 50-55 hours a week. I usually worked 7 - 8 days straight and then would take three days off. One of those days I would work overtime in the Emergency Room of the Hospital where I worked."

Prior to Mathews' diagnosis she

*..when I was diagnosed with Systemic Lupus Erythematosus. I was relieved and scared at the same time. I was always healthy. I became very ill and was not able to work. I was in a lot of pain, nauseated all the time, could not walk because I always felt like I was falling,,,"*

had three miscarriages, which is very common with women who have Lupus. Other difficulties vary from person to person. One may have severe joint pain which can lead to a lifetime in a wheelchair, while others may experience skin deformities; like the Musician/Singer Seal, who's had Discoid Lupus since childhood.

**Continued on page 10**

## LIFESTYLE

# Valentine's Day: How Will You Spend It This Year?



By Stephanie Del Valle

**V**alentine's Day, some may argue, is a Hallmark holiday. Most companies take advantage of this day to make a profit, selling enormous amounts of flowers, cards, and chocolate. Couples often struggle to plan out the activities of the day, feeling pressure from advertisements and society to come up with the perfect day. But how far should we go for Valentine's Day? Does Valentine's Day mean the emptying of our wallets in order to recognize the one we love?

On this day, one can expect to see red roses, a symbol that says "I love you," a tangible representation of passion and enduring desire. Many couples usually spend this day together to eat a romantic dinner, sharing secrets, laughing at jokes, and feeling content within their relationship.

When asked what is planned for February 14th, Troy Barnes, 21, Media Arts major responded,

"Just hanging out with the wife and taking her to dinner and a movie."

It seems that everyone has a universal idea of what comes to mind when thinking of Valentine's Day. Petey Garcia, 20, Accounting major answered, "Sex, flowers, and hearts."

*"Women don't seem to want anything spectacular, just a little something that shows that men care."*

Sara Ishage, 22, Biology major responded "Chocolate and candy, candy, candy!"

Women don't seem to want anything spectacular, just a little something that shows that men care. "Just a traditional gift, chocolates and flowers," answered Jessica Ortiz, 22, Spanish

major when asked what she would like to get this Valentine's Day.

Ishage believes that her ideal Valentine's Day would be "A day of nothing but my boyfriend and some candy." Mike Casiano, 18, Undecided only thinks this holiday is only worth celebrating if involved in a relationship.

According to NJCU students, it seems as if one does not have to break the wallet in order to celebrate Valentine's Day. From the women's point of view, a simple dinner and a movie would suffice. This classic date is a great way of creating conversation and an opportunity to intimately understand your partner through an exotic meal. A movie creates a fun aspect to the date, and also gives couples the chance to cuddle up and enjoy each other's touch.

Valentine's Day is not about going to great lengths to please your partner. A simple recognition with flowers and a sweet note might be memorable enough.



google.com

## Good Eats, Small Budgets

By Daniel Mikza

**L**et's face it: being a college student usually means having nothing in our pockets but dust. We don't rake in a lot of pennies and when we do, they're usually spent on things like books, cell phone bills, and food. Since our budgets are so tight, we can't exactly splurge at five star restaurants. But that doesn't mean we can't find some good eats for just a few bucks.

Hop on the number ten bus and take a trip to Jule's Restaurant and Italian Deli on John F. Kennedy Boulevard. It's a neat deli that makes some great sandwiches. The fresh mozzarella is to die for! They also have hot dishes such as chicken parmesan and pastas. The food is fresh, tasty, and enough to last you for the night. The best part is that Jule's won't break your budget.

If you're not in the mood for Italian, take a walk down West Side Avenue to Rowena's Specialty Foods. There you can get some lumpia (egg rolls stuffed with chicken, pork, or beef). You can also get barbequed pork cooked to perfection, fried calamari, among some other tasty dishes that you won't find in every supermarket. One of the best things about Rowena's, is that you get a lot of food for a small price.

Another great spot is the Indian restaurant, Dosa House, that is located on Newark Avenue between Kennedy Boulevard and Tonelle Avenue. Dosa is a rice pancake that can come plain or stuffed with meat. For those of you who like a little kick in your food, I suggest trying it.

Down the street from New Jersey City University on the corner of Culver and West Side is the Miss America Diner. It's a great spot if you want to grab a bite with friends and relax. The diner is fairly priced and has a variety of dishes to offer: burgers, lasagna, salads, club sandwiches, several kinds of soups, and pasta dishes. Don't leave without dessert! My favorite is the pudding.

My favorite spot is a little burger joint on Hudson Street in Hoboken called Lucky's. The burgers are phenomenal! They're made with pure Angus beef, and will leave your stomach full for the rest of the day. The crinkle fries are perfectly cooked, not too crunchy and not too mushy. If you're not in the mood for regular fries, upgrade to sweet potato (my favorite). You can also get turkey burgers and dynamite milkshakes! And with the lightrail only a few blocks away from school, Hoboken is right around the corner.

So, hopefully here are a few spots to broaden your horizons. I highly recommend Jules and Lucky's. Here's to good eats! I'm off to get my burger and shake.

### Daniel's Picks

**Jule's Restaurant & Italian Deli**  
1716 John F Kennedy Boulevard West  
Jersey City, NJ 07305  
(201) 432-1206 –  
(201) 432-3132 (Fax)

**Rowena's Delight Cake House**  
444 W Side Avenue  
Jersey City, NJ 07304  
(201) 435-1567

**Lucky's Famous Burgers**  
79 County Road 679  
Hoboken, NJ 07030  
(201) 963-0900  
[luckysfamousburgers.com](http://luckysfamousburgers.com)

**Ganeshs Dosa House LLC**  
809 Newark Avenue  
Jersey City, NJ 07306  
(201) 222-3883, [dosahouse.net](http://dosahouse.net)

## Fun Facts about Valentine's Day

By Stephanie Del Valle

- In medieval times, people associated the letter "X" with a kiss. People who could not write usually signed their names with an "X," and then kissed the paper to show genuine care.
- Bishop Valentine was jailed for performing secret wedding ceremonies despite Claudius II wishes. Valentines was imprisoned and then executed from the order of the Emperor on February 14th. While imprisoned, he wrote a love letter to the jailor's daughter signed "From your Valentine."
- The expression "to wear your heart on your sleeve" is originated from the Middle Ages. Men and women would pick names from a bowl for their Valentine. They would then pin the name onto their sleeve for everyone to see.
- The Roman Goddess of Love, Venus' favorite flower was the red rose.
- Physicians of the 1800s advised their patients to eat chocolate to ease the pain of a lost love.

<http://www.sheknows.com/holidays-and-seasons/articles/807655/fun-facts-about-valentine-s-day>

## From the NJCU Admissions Office:

**T**hank you to all the new students who completed the online NJCU Admissions Survey. Your participation will help us provide the best services to support and ensure your success. As a token of our appreciation, two Barnes and Noble gift cards are being given away via lottery. Congratulations to Nichole Lopez and Fanny

Alvarez who were randomly selected as winners of these \$50.00 Barnes and Noble gift cards.

Heather E. Woodbridge, M.A.  
Enrollment Management Specialist

Phone: 201-200-3379  
Fax: 201-200-2044



## MLB Preview: The American League East

Continued from page 12

tain Derek Jeter. Gardner has the speed and the ability to get on base easily which is essential for a lead-off hitter. They also still have Mark Teixeira, Alex Rodriguez, and Robinson Cano who just came off an MVP worthy season, though he did not win the award. Don't be surprised if Cano is moved a little higher in the lineup. There's also Nick Swisher and Curtis Granderson in the lineup, both of whom came off a pretty good 2010 season.

The Yankees top competitor in the AL East last season was the Tampa Bay Rays. Don't expect the Rays to have the same season. They not only lost star players like Soriano and Crawford, but they also lost a big bat in Carlos Pena and their pitcher who pitched a no-hitter last season Matt Garza. They also traded Jason Bartlett to the Padres and lost relief pitcher Joaquin Benoit to the Detroit Tigers. The only star players they have left are 3B Evan Longoria and starting pitcher David Price.

The Rays also signed Johnny Da-

mon and Manny Ramirez to one year deals. However these are two guys that will bring some offense, but absolutely no defense.



Expect the Baltimore Orioles to be a challenging team. With Buck Showalter as their manager they will be a tough competitor, however they won't make a real play-off run for at least another few seasons. The Toronto Blue Jays have not made many moves in the offseason, but they too will be some good competition like last season.

The American League East in 2011 will be even more tough and challenging than ever before. Expectations will be a big race for the

East title between the Yankees and the Red Sox.

Both teams have very deep lineups, but the Yankees have the edge because of their bullpen. It should make a very interesting and exciting year for the AL East



As a student active on campus

## Ras Baraka

Continued from page 2

Baraka stressed that young adults do not utilize the vast information available to them, whether it's publication or the internet. He also shed light on what college students should focus on while they attend university.

"So when you're [attending college], you need to take this as a privilege which means you need to study harder than everyone else," Baraka said about African-American students, "You don't come here to play."

The audience listened intently as Baraka listed off statistics about black youth and young adults: four million African-American children live in poverty, African-American children are three times more likely to be poor than white children, and only five percent of African-American men go on to attend college.

Baraka urged young African-Americans to stay in their communities after they have earned their college degrees.

"Every time you leave your community there's a brain drain in that community," said Baraka, "That's economic distress on your family."

As a student active on campus

life, Angela Giddings, an International Business major of Brooklyn, does not want to wait for students to discuss the topics that Baraka shared insight on.

"I think they're very aware of the topics," Giddings said, "whether or not they're willing to talk about them [is up to them]. You can lead a horse to water but you can't make them drink."

Giddings stated that she would be interested in having Baraka speak at another event in the future, with co-sponsorship from other student-run organizations.

Marcus Wright, a poet from Staten Island, performed two spoken word poems after Ras Baraka spoke. His poems "Prison Food" and "Underground Railroad" reflected Baraka's plea to young African-Americans to learn about the injustices such as racial inequality, inner city violence, and a broken education system.

In "Underground Railroad," Wright referenced notable African-Americans like Martin Luther King, Jr., Harriet Tubman, Billie Holiday, and Tupac.

"I'm very big on my black history with my personal and independent studies," said Wright.

Wright was complimentary in his expressed views on Baraka.

"I'm a big fan of what Baraka does and I wanted to hear him speak," said Wright. "That man

"It's always a pleasure to come out to the university and talk with students about trying to empower them to get involved in community organizing."

– Ras Baraka

is a leader. Whether we like it or not, we need more leaders like him, [leaders] who are ready to stand out."

Baraka expressed his favorable thoughts on speaking to college students.

"It's always a pleasure to come out to the university and talk with students about trying to empower them to get involved in community organizing," said Baraka in an interview after his lecture.

Baraka started his activism when he was a sophomore in college and encourages college students to get involved in activism.

"I know it is difficult [being a college student], you've got all these distractions," said Baraka, "One thing about activism, it also helps you get focused on your grades. You become more studious."



**FRIDAY,  
March 25,  
2011  
7:45PM**

**Get your tickets NOW!**

Online sales: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/153863>

Note: Parlor Productions is a small independent theater (40 seats per performance) downtown Jersey City – This is not an NJCU sponsored event, but March 25th TKT sales will benefit the LGBT and Friends Alliance of New Jersey City University (They heard we're broke and stepped in to help out!)

Venue: Downtown Jersey City (five blocks from the Grove Path & Jersey Ave Light rail stop). Address will be provided to ticket holders.

**TKTS will sell out. Get your TKT online before it's too late!**

For further info or to purchase TKTS in person, email [njculgbtfa@gmail.com](mailto:njculgbtfa@gmail.com)



"A lavishly flamboyant experimental play about family secrets... A MUST SEE for all theater & music fans."

## SPORTS

# In the Hall of Fame Once Again!

By Alex Johanesen

**D**uring the New Jersey City University Hall of Fame induction ceremony, Charles Brown was honored for his tremendous achievements as a former NJCU Men's Basketball coach. The ceremony took place on January 28th, 2011 at 6pm in the Michael B. Gilligan Student Union Building.

Brown was inducted on October 13, 1979 in the Hall of Fame for participating in men's basketball, cross country and outdoor track and field.

"You just coach and do what you have to do. I'm excited about it and it's something I appreciate [but] it wasn't a goal I set," said Brown.

Brown's twenty-five year coaching career at NJCU (1982-2007) is nothing short of incredible. With a 483-218 all time record, he is the winningest basketball coach in New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) history and the second winningest men's college basketball coach throughout the state of New Jersey for Division I, II, and III.

He led his teams into the post season every year he coached. He was in twelve NCAA Tournaments and thirteen ECAC Tournaments. The Gothic Knights reached two Division 3 NCAA Final Fours (1986, 1992) and five NJAC Championships (1986, 1990, 1992, 1995, 1994).

The Schoenfeld Sportsmanship Award was bestowed upon his team in 2002 by the Metropolitan New Jersey Collegiate Basketball Officials Association. The award is given annually to the program that has the most sportsmanship, character, and ethics. In the 2004-2005 season they won the Association



Coach Charles Brown in action.

Photo by Richard Formica

of Division III Independents Men's Basketball Championship.

"Recruiting players who worked hard," is one reason Brown believes he was so successful, as well as surrounding himself with great assistant coaches.

Charles Brown has been rewarded for his accomplishments with the men's basketball team throughout his career. In 1986 Brown was named Kodak Division III National Coach of the Year. He was a three-time Atlantic District Coach of the year (1986, 2004, 2007), six-time NJAC Coach of the Year (1986, 1989, 1990, 1995, 2004, 2007), and three-time Metropolitan Basketball Writers Association Coach of the Year (1990, 1992, 2004). He was named NJCBA College Division Coach of the year in 1989 and 1990.

*"You just coach and do what you have to. I'm excited about it and it's something I appreciate [but] it wasn't a goal I set"*

**Charles Brown**

The accolades do not stop there. Brown was inducted into the Hudson County Athletic Hall of Fame in 1993. A year later he received the L. Harvey Smith Civic Association Community Service Award. Brown was also been introduced into the New Jersey Sports Writers Association Hall of Fame in 2004, receiving the "Coaching Legends Award" dur-

ing the ceremony. In the same year, the talented coach received the first ever "Jackie Robinson Role Model Award."

Forever honoring the outstanding achievements of Charles Brown to the athletic program at NJCU, the main court in the John J. Moore Athletics and Fitness Center, was dedicated to him in 2008.

It has been four seasons since Charles Brown has stepped on the court as the NJCU men's basketball head coach and he does miss it, especially working with the players.

"After forty-one years of coaching it was difficult at the beginning but it's getting a little easier," said Brown, who is still very much part of the team. He still attends every home and away game the Gothic Knights compete in.

## NJCU's Women Bowling: Senior Leads Young Team

By Alberto Arias

**B**owling alleys are rumbling with optimism and rolling gusto for the NJCU's women bowling squad. The ten pin wrecking crew is on pace to have their most successful season in school history. Heading into the 2011 season the Gothic Knights have an impressive record of 45-19 and are ranked 9th nationally amongst Division I, II, and III. Reaching record breaking accolades and personal honors are not this team's concerns. They're all striving for a common goal: to make a run at the national championships.

"Our ultimate goal is to reach the Nationals for the 8th consecutive year. We're really competitive against other Division I and II schools, so having the first national championship in school history is a great measure of our success" said NJCU Bowling Head Coach Frank Parisi.

Parisi is entering his tenth consecutive year as Head Coach of the NJCU Bowling team. His success and winning formula are attributed to his hard work and has been properly awarded with the



2011 Women's Bowling team

was awarded the National Tenpin Coaches Association the 2010 National Bowling Player of the Year for Division III. Drejerwski, a senior, said: "Getting the National Player of the Year Award is great. But it's more important to have the team together because you're only going to go as far as your team goes."

The Gothic Knights competed admirably in the Kutztown invitational against twenty-eight schools and managed a fifth place finish. The tournament was held

in Heister Lanes in Reading, PA, and was played between January 28 and January 30. The tournament was telecasted live on bowl.com.

The Gothic Knights have seven upcoming tournaments in their schedule including the all important Northeastern Conference Championships and the NCAA Bowling Championships. The bowling squad is certainly poised to make a gallant run in the big dance. The NCAA bowling tournament is where their passion, commitment, and vigor will help them reach their pinnacle.

The NEC Women's Bowling Championships will be held on Saturday March 26 to Sunday March 27, 2011. Taylor, Michigan will be the epicenter of bowling where the NCAA collegiate championships will be held from April 14 to April 16.

"We want to make it far into nationals. We learned a lot from last year; we understand that it's seventy percent mental and thirty percent physical. We all have to come together and it's going to be a team effort" said Drejerwski.

## MLB Preview: The American League East

By Kelsey O'Donnell

**I**n Major League Baseball off-season, the American League East made a lot of noise. However this time it was not the New York Yankees splurging their money.

The Boston Red Sox acquired Adrian Gonzalez of the San Diego Padres in a trade and spent \$140 million signing Tampa Bay Rays free agent Carl Crawford. This deal gives the Red Sox a very deep lineup with bats like Jacoby Ellsbury, Kevin Youkilis, and Dustin Pedroia.

The Red Sox pitching will be the biggest question this 2011 season.

Last year the starting rotation was not at its best. Josh Beckett pitched very poorly and wound up getting hurt. Clay Buchholz and John Lester were the better pitchers for the Red Sox, but Buchholz was also riddled with injuries. John Lackey is going into his second year with the Red Sox after not pitching to the potential of his deal last year.

On top of all of this, their bullpen is covered with question marks; especially toward their closer Jonathan Papelbon. He reached a career high in blown saves with eight in 2010 and the Red Sox were ready to attempt to sign Yankees legendary closer Mariano Rivera and get rid of Papelbon.

The Yankees may not have had a loud offseason, but they have made some deals that will help their lineup and bullpen.

 The Yankees signed Tampa Bay Rays closer Rafael Soriano to a three year, \$35 million contract. In 2010 he collected 45 saves in 48 opportunities. Having Soriano in the bullpen is like having two closers when you have Rivera in the picture. The Yankees starting rotation is very questionable at this time. If they can't collect another starting pitcher, then they might as well make the bullpen stronger.

Without Pettitte in the rotation (retired), who is left? The Yankees have CC Sabathia, AJ Burnett, and Phil Hughes of last year's rotation. Burnett is coming off one of his worst seasons in 2010 going 10-15 with a 5.26 ERA. He will really have to get his act together in 2011.

The Yankees don't have many choices for starting pitchers outside of Sabathia, Burnett, and Hughes. Ivan Nova was impressive last season filling in for the injured Pettitte, but he showed that he had troubles lasting more than five innings. Other than Nova there is Sergio Mitre who really does not have starter stuff anymore.

As far as offense goes the Yankees signed LA Dodgers catcher Russell Martin. After announcing that veteran catcher Jorge Posada would be used primarily as a DH this season, the Yankees made the move to sign Martin to be the regular catcher in 2011.

The Yankees have a very solid lineup. Brett Gardner will probably leadoff followed by the Cap-

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