

# THE GOTHIC TIMES

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## SGO members, students removed from India discussion and vote

### *Move may have broken law, official says*

By Rafal Rogoza,  
Monir Khilla  
and Allison Lozada

Council members and some students in the audience were told to leave during a discussion and vote at a recent Student Government Organization (SGO) meeting, a move that may have violated New Jersey State law.

"I just don't understand why they would do that," said Adam Goldstein, attorney advocate for the Student Press Law Center, when informed about the SGO action.

"This vote pertains to the people that went to India...So if you attended the India trip you have to step out of the meeting because you're not allowed to participate in the discussion or the vote," said Aurora Estevez, SGO VP of Finance and Administration, during the council session. "That also pertains to people that have went to India and are part of the audience."

Six council members that attended the trip left the February 28th meeting and were not allowed to take part in the vote that would have reimbursed \$7,500



Photo by Sean Rammarian

Student Government Organization advisor James Robilotta addresses the council about proper rules of procedure during the March 5th council meeting.

to students that have attended the India study abroad trip last January.

The motion failed as only 6 council members supported it and 12 voted against it.

Dean of Students, Lyn Hamlin and SGO advisor James Robilotta discussed and agreed with the SGO Executive Board to

clear the room of students who had gone on the trip because of a "conflict of interest."

"If they (the student government) are subject to the open meetings law – and I believe they are – there's no question there was a violation of the law. Asking people to leave a meeting because of a conflict of interest is

asinine behavior. As a member of the public, you are allowed to have an interest," said Goldstein.

Goldstein cited New Jersey state law and said, "Any member of the public has a right to be present at all meetings of public bodies. Public bodies are bodies to which governmental functions are delegated. Are the students

performing a function delegated to them by a higher governmental funding authority? If so, they are a public body and subject to the law."

"We weren't trying to break the law," said Hamlin.

According to Hamlin, it didn't seem fair for council members that attended the trip to vote because of a conflict of interest.

"It sounded logical to us that people who got the money not be part of the vote," said Hamlin.

"I was not aware of the law," said Robilotta.

"Admin[istration] strongly recommended to have them leave," said Robilotta.

"There was no sinister motive," said John Melendez, VP for Student Affairs, who said he advised council members that voting on their own compensation would represent a conflict of interest. He said he advised council members who attended the trip to recuse themselves from the discussion and debate about compensation.

"There was a discussion, there were mixed opinions overall. When we discussed it they [the executive board] were okay with

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## NJCU campus undergoes \$30 million renovation

By Atilla Azami

NJCU continues construction across the campus. The Capital Renewal Program, one of the largest and most comprehensive construction projects—an estimated \$30 million—the University has ever embarked upon.

"[The project] is going to provide a higher comfort level to all students," said Andrew Christ, the Associate Vice President for Facilities and Construction Management and Co-Chair of Campus Infrastructure Working Group (CIWG). "[I]ncluding a lot of invisible things...such as HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning), electrical and water infrastructure."

Based upon a 2009 facilities condition assessment, a prioritized list of reconstruction around the entire campus was created. In 2010, Aaron Aska, Vice President for Administration and Finance, and Co-Chair of CIWG, secured bonds for \$30 million to fund the newly created Capital Renewal Program.

Chris Rice, 23, film major from



Photo by Rafal Rogoza

Crumbled concrete along the railing on the Gilligan Student Union building terrace.

Oldbridge said, "I think any money invested into the school is a good thing. Keeping students' benefits in mind should always be considered." He said, "Parking is an issue and more money should be invested to address the problem."

The project has been split into two separate phases encompassing almost the entire campus from Hepburn Hall and Guarini Library to John J. Moore Athletics and Fitness Center (JMAC) and

University Academy Charter School.

Phase I of the project includes: Fries Hall, Professional Studies Building, Rossey Hall, Science Building, Visual Arts Building and Vodra Hall.

Phase II encompasses: Co-op Dormitory, Gilligan Student Union Building (GSUB), Guarini Library, Hepburn Hall, John Moore Athletic Center, University Academy Charter School, Vodra

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## Senior Formal with a GQ theme

By Anthony Miles

Tickets are on sale now for this year's Senior Formal. The event will take place at Fiesta on Route 17, from 8pm to 1am, on Thursday April 26th. Tickets are \$25 per person and \$50 per couple and can be purchased at the University Service Center in (GSUB) on the 1st Floor, right next to the bookstore.

Senior class president Jane Sepulveda said during a phone

interview that "seniors have priority when purchasing tickets, but I honestly think it's safe to say, [if there are a lot of tickets left] that we would sell to [other students] who would want to come out and party with the seniors."

Students were given a chance to pick this year's theme when the senior class e-board asked students to cast their vote on the best choice. The winner,

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NEWS

# Student Council votes down reimbursements

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the decision.”

“From my understanding, it was the general feel of the executive board that it would be a conflict of interest to have the participants in the room and a more open and honest discussion would be had if they were not in the room,” said Robert Quinones, Coordinator of Community Services and Greek Life. SGO council meetings are structured by the Robert’s rules of order -- a guide book on how deliberations at an assembly should proceed.

Dr. Fran Moran, political science professor, observed the meeting and said, “Asking the people who would be impacted by this to leave is against the Robert’s rules of order.”

“I thought it was fair because I thought it was part of Robert’s rules,” said Estevez.

“I think it was skewed...that everyone who spoke against it stayed,” said Michael Faivush, President of SGO.

Faivush left the meeting because he attended the India trip.

Asked if he felt forced to leave, Faivush said, “Was I technically forced? No. But we were strongly influenced on a method of conducting the vote which we later found out was not valid.”

Giselle Ojagir, SGO Executive Vice President, also left the meeting.

Goldstein said violations of the Open Meetings Act can result in fines against the offending body. He said such cases are unusual, but they do happen. He cited a case at Montclair State University, a couple of years ago, where their SGO settled a case out of court. As part of the settlement, the SGO agreed to abide by the Open Meetings Act.

According to Ojagir, she didn’t know asking students to leave the meeting was against the law and that it wasn’t part of the Robert’s rules of order.

“When we vote for a new club we ask them to leave that vote so they won’t know who voted for



Photo from Facebook.com

Students and advisers in India. The trip is a part of the India Study Abroad Program.

or against,” said Ojagir, who thought the same procedure applied to the reimbursement vote.

“It seemed that we had to leave so we did. I never asked to stay. We were told to do so, so I didn’t resist,” said Jennifer Vazquez, 21, BFA painting and drawing major from Jersey City. Vazquez is a voting member of the council.

Ask how she would have voted

if she stayed, Vezquez said “I would have voted against the reimbursement because I decided to go on the trip knowing I wasn’t going to get the \$500 back. I didn’t want to seem greedy. I think it looks good as a student leader and we were never guaranteed this compensation.”

“I definitely would have voted for us to get the \$500 back,” said Corrado DeVincenzo, 22, Junior Class President from Bayonne. The money would have helped him with his college expenses.

DeVincenzo, a voting council member, was removed from the meeting.

“Nobody can talk about the India trip as we can,” said DeVincenzo.

DeVincenzo said he understood why the executive board may have conflict of interest concerns but once he was informed that it was a violation of the Robert’s rules of order he considered the vote unfair.

“Well I feel like half the people on council were missing, so we didn’t get a full perspective,” said Frank Fernandez, 29, environmental science major from Jersey City. Fernandez voted for the motion.

“No, it wasn’t fair they didn’t have a say in the discussion but it also wouldn’t have been fair if they had a vote,” said Emanuel Alvarez, 28, sociology major from Union City who voted against the motion.

Alvarez considered the conflict of interest concerns legitimate.

Asked if the council could vote on the motion again Moran said, “No. There is a motion to rescind, but it has to be during the same meeting and it has to be done by the winning side.”

According to Moran the council cannot reintroduce the same motion, however, they may introduce a similar, but new motion.

**Correction**

In the December 7, 2011 issue the Gothic Times erroneously reported in the article “Student Council approves \$30K to depleted E-Board budget” that SGO revenue increased \$196,000 due to increased student enrollment and the insurance settlement from the Moody court case. The correct amount is \$296,000.

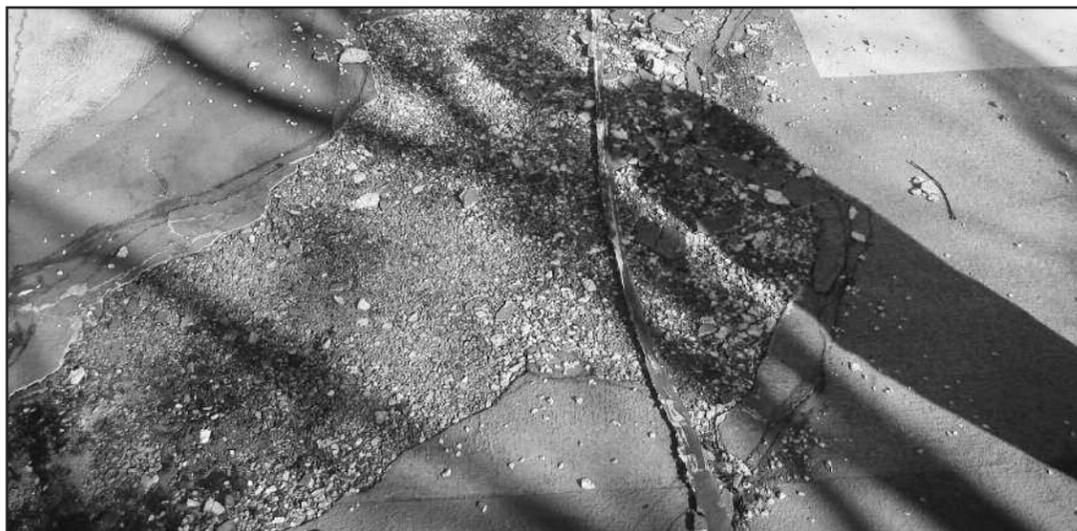


Photo by Rafal Rogoza

Damaged concrete floor on the Gilligan Student Union building terrace.

## \$30 million renovation

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Hall Dorm and the Facilities Building at 251 West Side Ave.

“I’m all for it, but if it increases our tuition: no,” said Joel Zaro, 22, media arts major from Jersey City. “Honestly, I like our school the way it is.” He said, “They should use some of the money for student benefit equipment.”

Andrew Christ noted that one of the chief goals was to renew HVAC equipment as well as water and electrical infrastructure to make the entire campus operate more efficiently, not only to bring down costs, but also, to make NJCU “greener.”

Anticipating student morale, the project has allocated the largest percentage to GSUB with a total sum of \$9 million. The GSUB reconstruction consists of roof replacement, deck and plaza restoration, and parking garage restoration.

According to Christ, the bulk of the construction is planned to take place this summer. The Capital Renewal Program is forecasted to be completed by the fall semester of 2013 and has met all deadlines thus far.

Andrea Escobar, 19, a education and math major from Bayonne said, “It’s a great idea but we need more space. [The campus] should be expanded with more recre-



Photo by Rafal Rogoza

A recycling bin collecting rain water in the Gilligan Student Union building on the first floor next to the commuter lounge.

### RENOVATION BREAKDOWN

**PROFESSIONAL STUDIES BUILDING**

**Total Cost: \$1.2 Million**  
ADA Improvements  
Restroom ADA Upgrades  
Energy Efficiency  
HVAC System Replacement  
Lighting Upgrades  
HVAC/Comfort  
HVAC Controls Replacement

Sprinkler System Install  
ADA Improvements  
Restroom ADA Upgrades  
Energy Efficiency  
HVAC System Replacement  
Lighting Upgrades  
HVAC/Comfort  
HVAC Controls Replacement  
Building Envelope  
Roof/Door Replacements  
Building Infrastructure  
Electrical System Upgrades

**VODRA HALL**

**Total Cost: \$2.5 Million**  
Life/Safety  
Fire Alarm Upgrade  
Energy Efficiency  
HVAC System Replacement  
Lighting Upgrades  
Flush Valves  
HVAC/Comfort  
HVAC Controls Replacement  
Building Envelope  
Façade Repairs  
Door/Window Replacements  
Building Infrastructure  
Domestic Water System Upgrades

**GILLIGAN STUDENT UNION BUILDING**

**Total Cost: \$9 Million**  
Life/Safety  
Emergency Generator Replacement  
Entrance Ramp Replacement  
Building Envelope  
Roof Replacement  
Deck/Plaza Restoration  
Parking Garage Restoration  
Repair Water Infiltration  
Building Infrastructure  
Electrical System Improvements

**JOHN J. MOORE ATHLETICS AND FITNESS CENTER**

**Total Cost: \$828,000**  
Life/Safety  
Fire Alarm System Upgrades  
Energy Efficiency  
Lighting Replacement  
Flush Valves  
HVAC/Comfort  
HVAC Controls Upgrade  
Building Envelope  
Window/Skylight Replacements

**SCIENCE BUILDING**

**Total Cost: \$7.8 Million**  
Life/Safety  
Emergency Generator Replacement  
Fire Alarm System Upgrades  
ADA Improvements  
Restroom ADA Upgrades  
Energy Efficiency  
HVAC System Replacement  
Electrical System Upgrades  
HVAC/Comfort  
HVAC Controls Replacement  
Building Envelope  
Façade Repairs  
Exterior Door Replacements  
Building Infrastructure  
Domestic Water System Upgrades

**HEPBURN HALL**

**Total Cost: \$6.7 Million**  
Life/Safety  
Emergency Generator Replacement

# LIFESTYLE

## Senior Formal

Continued from page 1

“GQ,” trumped other party themes such as “A Night in Paris,” “Hawaiian Luau,” and “Surprise Me.”

Sepulveda believes that the best theme won.

She said that, “The event will be a great networking opportunity where students can exchange contacts and make new friends.”

This senior class e-board seems more determined than those in past years. Jane reveals, “I’m not sure if students were aware, but this is the first time in a few years that there is a full e-board.” She boasts that every member of the board is easy to work with, committed to enhancing the skills of the student body, and genuinely wants every student here at NJCU to feel more comfortable.

Jane, who is also president of the Geoscience Club, has been working with Class Treasurer Grace Valdes (President of the Sociology Club), as well as Secretary Jesus Aquino (RA in

Vodra Hall) to make this year’s senior formal, the best the senior class has ever had.

Jane said that the e-board has been “trying to spread the word as much as they can,” contacting over 1500 graduating students about this year’s formal with the help of Monica Almonor, head of graduation clearance.

The e-board has even created a Facebook page to help promote the event.

“Not everyone checks their [NJCU] email, but we’re crossing our fingers, and hoping that they check their Facebook,” said Sepulveda.

Along with the page, NJCU Senior Banquet 2012, the board has created NJCU Senior Class 2012, a Facebook page where seniors can post their thoughts and comments, as well as get information on upcoming events at the school. The page launched over a week ago and now has 75 subscribers.

It seems to be a great success and has helped seniors communicate openly with one another. Within days of the page’s launch,



Senior Class president Jane Sepulveda



Senior Class treasurer Grace Valdes



Senior Class secretary Jesus Aquino

Photos by Edwin Quito

the e-board came up with a great idea to have students carpool to the banquet, which will help other students without a ride attend the festivities.

In addition, the e-board welcomes all students to sit in on meetings and submit ideas that would benefit the campus community. These meetings take place every Wednesday from 12pm to 1pm in GSUB, Room 303.

As for this year’s formal, Jane encourages students to come to a meeting and “contribute ideas for party favors, decorations, and table centerpieces.”

They could use the help.

### Things to Look Out For:

Jane provided the scoop on Senior Spa Day, an all-day event that will be held in Fair Lawn, New Jersey, right after midterms in March, where students will be able to unwind with saunas, pools, and hot-stone treatments. Tickets will be \$30. She insists that “[Students] be there from the minute they open, to the minute they close. It’s worth the buck.”

“A lot of students are stressed out, have responsibilities outside of school, or are even mothers or

fathers. The e-board is offering a way to de-stress,” says Sepulveda. The plan is to build rapport with students through fun activities not just educational seminars or lectures.

### And...

The Senior Class E-Board has purchased 40 tickets to Six Flags for April 28th 2012, the weekend of the Senior Formal. They will be selling these tickets at a reduced price of \$10 for all interested seniors. And don’t worry if you’re too late, Sepulveda concludes that “if there is a demand for more tickets, we may be able to purchase more!”

## Model UN club struggles with finances

By Egypt Hicks & Elisheva R. R.

Model UN club continues with the struggle for attending conferences every year due to the financial setback they are experiencing.

“Only the people that can afford to pay for themselves will be able to go,” said Brian Flores ,21, Treasurer of the Model UN club.

The conference that the Model UN club desires to attend will be held in the United Nations Headquarters in New York City on April 1-5.

The club had submitted a request to the Student Government Organization (SGO) two weeks in advanced, in addition to having Professor Stanton writing a letter of recommendation for co-sponsorship. However, the SGO Executive Board did not approve in assisting the Model UN club with funds for the conference.

“The SGO said that they needed more specific information about how the money is going to be spent. Other schools

are able to go to conferences because their schools support them financially,” said Edwin Quito, 24, President of Model UN club.

Even before the conference at the United Nations came to interest, the conference at Harvard in February was denied for the club as well because the Executive Board believed it was too expensive.

Quito says, “We only had \$625 in our budget, so it was impossible to bring students to that conference.”

The organization consists of 10 members. The costs consist of a \$125 registration fee per student and \$250 a night for a hotel room. The conference is four days long. The Model UN club was only going to send two members of its organization to the conference.

“The selection process was not open and that’s a lot of money for two people,” said Jan Aguilos ,24, SGO Vice President of Public Information.

Even though the Model UN group experiences certain financial issues, it is very beneficial to its members.

“We try to do a lot of activities, which we do with our own funds. For instance, we took some of our members to the United Nations headquarters so they can actually see the inside,” said Flores.

“Last semester, we attended one meeting with the ambassador of the United States and we got a chance to talk to him about the issues in the Middle East. It was a really cool experience,” said Quito.



Photo provided by Edwin Quito

Brian Flores, Jennifer Munoz, Uzma Rashidi and Edwin Quito at 2011 NY national Model UN conference.



Photo provided by Edwin Quito

Edwin Quito, Uzma Rashidi, Jennifer Munoz and Brian Flores at the 2011 NY national Model UN conference.

2012  
Senior Reception  
THURSDAY APRIL 26<sup>TH</sup>  
TICKETS ON SALE AT  
THE UNIVERSITY SERVICE CENTER (GSUB)

## NEWS

# Students are taking a break with family

By Rafal Rogoza

Most NJCU students will spend their 2012 spring break relaxing with family, while others will catch up with friend and work.

“Probably going to go spend my time with family in Georgia,” said Kristen Ibaria, 20, biology major from Fairview.

Ibaria will visit her cousin and plans to take advantage of her time off to see how her family is doing.

“My cousin said she wants to take me to a bunch of places,” said Ibaria. “She has a family, probably spend time with the kids, like one on one time maybe.”

This year’s spring break is March 12 - 18. According to studenttravel.about.com, 1,112,000 students in 2012 share the same days for spring break. Many will visit the sunny beaches of Mexico and enjoy the nightlife before heading back to class when the festivities are over. Student city, an online travel company, reports that Cancun, Las Vegas, Florida, and Jamaica are the top destinations to visit during the break.

“I might go to California and visit some family,” said Anthony Okalor, 22, biology major from Orange. Okalor rarely visits his family, who he considers very conservative.

“They’re kind of strict. They’re kind of real religious so...they don’t really get out much,” said Okalor.

Okalor is not letting his family hold him back though, as he



www.123rf.com

plans to sneak out of the house and take in what California has to offer. “I might go look around L.A. by myself,” he said.

“I think I’m going to go to Florida with my sister,” said Olympia Seiortino, 18, special education major from Bridgewater.

Seiortino’s grandparents live in Sarasota.

When asked if she is going to take advantage of her time off and party with her

grandfather Seiortino said, “He’s like an old man, he’s not into that stuff.”

Other students are keeping their

spring break destinations local and are eager to hangout with friends they haven’t seen all semester.

“Maybe go to the Poconos with some friends,” said Juliana Maniscalco, 19, business administration major from Bayonne.

Maniscalco is organizing the trip and is still in the planning phase.

“I’m trying to work on that but its like...money, splitting up who is paying for what and all that,” said Maniscalco.

Jose Ortiz, 19, business management major from Newark, has similar plans. He is hoping to get his friends together and head out

to Pennsylvania.

“Probably just spend it with friends in Pennsylvania,” said Ortiz. “Walk in the woods, a little hike, nothing really special.”

Ortiz would really like to work on some books that he is writing but the time off from spring break just won’t do.

“I want to be able to finish my books. I have a lot, two separate series. I’m going to need more than a week,” said Ortiz.

Those students not lucky enough to travel to the west coast or to the Poconos are staying busy at their jobs during the break. But they’re optimistic and

look forward to seeing friends.

“I went on vacation last year, I went to Cancun,” said Ana Rivera, 19, undeclared major from Newark. “It was the best. Oh my god, even worse that the stuff you see on TV.”

This year Rivera is staying home.

“Work, work, and work,” said Rivera who works full time as a waitress in a Mexican restaurant. “I had to pay for school this year so I have to save up.”

Rosie Mendoza, 20, music education major from West New York, is staying put at home as well.

“Honestly, I have nothing planned. I have a couple days where I have a rehearsal to attend,” said Mendoza. “We [the band] have only two days out of the whole week off.”

Mendoza is part of a small concert band that is based out of Bloomfield, NJ.

When asked what she has in mind for the brief time off Mendoza said, “Probably sleep, sleep all those two days, whatever time I have available.”

“I haven’t thought that far ahead,” said Joshua Maikuina, 19, criminal justice major from Newark, when asked about his spring break plans.

Maikuina has a part time job that he has to worry about and vacation plans out of state are off the table. He is hopeful that his friends will keep him busy when he is not working.

“I’m a just go with the flow. Whatever happens, happens,” said Maikuina.

## Public Safety Department keeping an eye on campus

By Nachalie Rodriguez

Is NJCU as safe as we think? NJCU is located in one of the most urban and densely populated cities. Cityrating.com statistic summary reports for 2012 show that Jersey City is expecting a rise in robbery, larceny and theft.

The main concern is what has NJCU’s Public Safety Department done in the past, present and in the future to secure the safety of the students and staff?

“We always feel that public safety can do better, we always raise the bar to enter more technology to increase the number of cameras, card access, lighting around campus and our Knight Rider program,” says Bruce D. Harman, Director of Public Safety at NJCU.

There are over 100 cameras on

campus to secure students’ safety. Harman suggests that more workshops on crime prevention and streets smarts would be very useful. Harman also said that for the last ten years crimes at the NJCU campus have remained flat and consistently low over the years.

Some students may not feel as though enough is being done, such as Suzana Nereu, a NJCU student who experienced a man trying to steal a girl’s bag and says, “I think the campus is too open and anyone can just walk around and do whatever they want. There isn’t enough security walking or driving around. We definitely need more people around campus and randomly checking IDs.”

Luckily the NJCU Public Safety Department has not faced a significant reduction in staff, but one issue that the department has faced is the budget. Low budgets may mean less vigilance and not enough security on campus.

“I feel safe around campus because I park close to the building that my classes are in. I don’t really have time to explore campus, I only attend school two nights a week, but I never see public safety walking around campus or patrolling the parking garage. I think public safety

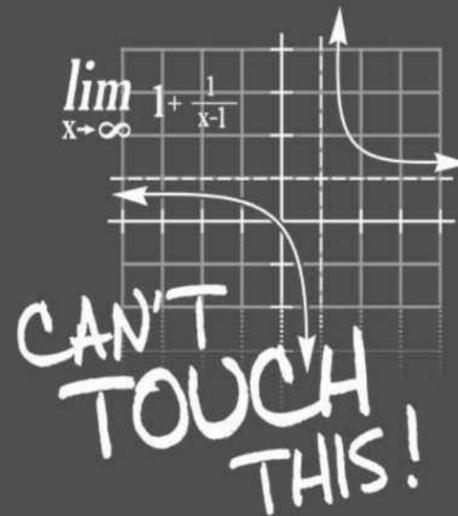


njcu.edu

could make themselves more visible so students feel a bit safer,” says Dana Smith, 30, English major from Jersey City.

Perhaps more advertisements such as flyer distributions letting student know all 12 + NJCU Emergency contact numbers can help students feel safer. Fortunately, Public Safety Security is on campus 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, but taking the initiative to advertise the resources that NJCU provides such as: The Silent Witness Program, which allows students and staff to submit any criminal activity anonymously, Guides and Tips to provide students with what to do and what not to do, The Knight Rider Survey which transports students to another campus if needed, Campus Escort Services, Vehicle Jumpstart Services and Gothic Alerts, which notify students and staff of any criminal activity that has occurred, may continue to reduce the most common crimes around NJCU campus.

## Math Club



Join us!

Tuesday  
03/27 GSUB 317 3:30 to 4:30  
04/10 GSUB 317 3:30 to 4:30  
04/24 GSUB 317 3:30 to 4:30

Thursday  
03/22 GSUB 317 3:00 to 4:00  
04/05 GSUB 317 3:00 to 4:00  
04/19 GSUB 317 3:00 to 4:00  
05/03 GSUB 317 3:00 to 4:00



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FEATURES

# BOOST your resume with an internship

By Rafal Rogoza

On the east side of Manhattan, around 45th St. and 1st avenue is the headquarters of the United Nations. Such prolific figures as Mandela, Castro, Kissinger, Clinton, among many others, have met at the UN to discuss global affairs.

Twice a week Edwin Quito, 24, political science major from West New York, walks in awe through the same entrance as the leaders that have shaped the world since World War II.

"It's amazing, it's unbelievable to be in the UN," said Quito.

Since January 17, Quito has been attending economic and social council meetings as an intern of the Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic. Quito's responsibilities include researching topics to be discussed during the conference, preparing reports, and translating documents for the Dominican mission.

"I meet a lot of ambassadors and officials from many countries," said Quito, who has rubbed elbows with the Vice Secretary of the UN, ambassadors from Ecuador and Sri Lanka.

Christian Diaz, 22, international business major from Union City, is interning this spring at Atrinsic an internet marketing company.

"I did five projects at once. I couldn't even eat but it's really interesting. I like the environment," remarked Diaz about his internship. Atrinsic has offered

Diaz a job after his internship ends.

"Honestly, I would like to experience what other companies are about and what they can offer my career," said Diaz.

NJCU's proximity to New York City gives students the opportunity to intern for international corporations, various organizations, and local small businesses. NBC, Sirius Radio, Madison Square Garden, Google, the Center for Bio Defense, FBI, and the CIA are only a few of the many places where students can seek an internship.

If you're eager to find an internship related to your career goals here's a basic breakdown that can serve you as a guide.

First you have to meet certain requirements. Your GPA must be at 2.5 or higher, you need to complete at least 45 credits, and you have to officially declare your major.

Next, visit the office of Career Planning and Placement in Vodra Hall room 101. Take the time to ask the secretary any questions you may have and schedule an appointment with a cooperative education assistant director. Your major will dictate which assistant will be advising you through your internship process.

Have a sample resume ready for your first meeting. Your assistant will help you revise your resume and will also tell you about other resources such as interview coaching that will help you get

the internship you want.

Think about what internships you are interested in pursuing. Do some research on various companies and feel free to discuss what you find with your assistant.

Keep in mind that some internships have early deadlines and others have extensive back round checks that can take months.

"Everyone should come in the semester before. The reason why is because a lot of these places have deadlines to apply. If somebody wants to do something for fall 2012 they should come in now and see us," said Christopher Cofone, an assistant director at the Office of Career Planning and Placement. Cofone advises political science, business, history, and psychology majors.

Dean Brianik, assistant director who advise students majoring in national security, criminal justice, and fire science, advises students to come in freshmen and sophomore year. Back round checks in security sensitive fields can take months. The earlier you see an assistant the faster you can get a file started and look for an internship.

After your meeting with an assistant you'll be provided with a Place Pro account. Place Pro is an online service that helps you shop around for internship opportunities. You'll be able to post your resume and file internship applications for positions of your choosing.

Besides Place Pro, you can also apply to companies directly. Take a look at the classified section in the newspaper and browse through Craig's List, you might find some surprising opportuni-

ties. Be persistent and stay positive. Eventually you'll get a call from a human resource representative and land your first interview. Schedule a visit at the barbershop or beauty salon and make sure you look fresh for your interview. Relax, with all the resources on campus preparing you for this moment you shouldn't have a problem getting the position you seek.

Internship hours are flexible and vary depending on your employer. Typical internships can range from 8 to 24 hours a week. If your lucky, you may find a paying internship. Also, keep in mind that you may only take up to 12 internship credits.

Students that work and attend school can still intern.

"If they [students] could commit to one day a week they can still work at their jobs," said Pamela Taylor, assistant director advising chemistry, physics, and math majors.

Once your foot is in the door don't drop the ball. An internship can do wonders for your career. It will spice up your resume and help you stand out from among the many students that make the poor decision to forgo an internship. In a highly competitive job market, an internship is a great way to boost your skills and network with employers that can offer you a job.

"If there is a problem people are going to have it's either they don't have any campus activities like the newspaper, student gov-

ernment, and they don't have an internship. So their resume is lacking," said Cofone.

Taylor stressed the positive influence internships have on developing a successful career. Taylor also said that internships make students applying for grad schools more competitive during the application process.

"We have more internships available than students," said Juan E. Arroyo, assistant director advising art, English, media, foreign language, and theater majors.

Understanding the expectations an employer may have will help students avoid rookie mistakes once they land a job. Showing creativity once you begin your internship is always a bonus.

"If you bring a set of skills you can network in that company," said Arroyo.

"Don't limit yourself," remarked Quito, "Just go for it, there are many opportunities."

*Office of Career Planning and Placement is located in Vodra Hall, Room 101. Phone number is 201-200-3005. For more information visit the Office of Career Planning and Placement website on njcu.edu.*

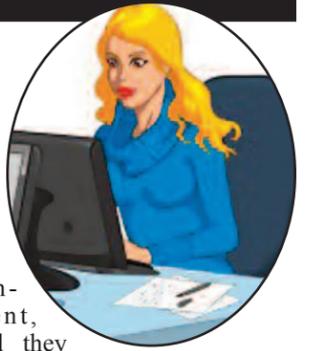


Photo courtesy of Edwin Quinto  
**Edwin Quito**



Photo courtesy of Christian Diaz  
**Christian Diaz**

# Defeating Boundaries, Defying Conspiracies

By Monir Khilla

Dr. Ansley LaMar, Chairman of the Psychology department, doesn't seem the conspiracy theorist type. He never was. But, with the seats in the Gothic Lounge filling up quicker than the lingering smell of barbecue, Dr. LaMar warned the standing-room only crowd of the conspiracy against our minds.

The lecture, "The Conspiracy Against Black Minds," was held to commemorate the ending of Black History Month with Dr. LaMar inspiring students to stop settling for mediocrity, stop taking easy professors, and to defy the conspiracies that have been stacked against their minds. Dr. LaMar also challenged administrators to raise the standards they have set for their students.

When Dr. LaMar's was in the fourth grade, his teacher Mrs. Stein walked into his class one day and asked her students "If you think you're stupid, please stand up." After repeating the question three times, Dr. Lamar's friend Johnny stood up. "You think you're stupid?" asked Mrs Stein. "No" replied Johnny, "But I don't want you to be the only one standing."

Through this funny, but heart-warming, anecdote, Dr. LaMar went over the industrialist oppression of the black mind. Long after the Civil War, blacks were still being discriminated against

and arrested just because they wanted new jobs. The debt and fines were too large for them to pay, forcing them to work off their debt in labor.

"We know in 1919 George Ferguson had scientific proof that black people could only do manual labor. But you know what? Black people still studied the arts, humanities, sciences, and mathematics anyway!" exclaimed Dr. LaMar. "Black people still insisted going on to college."

The barriers against blacks going to school eventually came down, but Johnny's father insisted that now there was a more dangerous conspiracy. Johnny's father told him "Now that the barriers are gone, I wonder what they're going to teach you. I wonder whether they will maintain high education standards."

The fear was that now there was a conspiracy to lower standards. As the standards were becoming lowered and lowered, Dr. LaMar wondered about how all the students who were so disadvantaged still succeeded. The Vietnamese student who didn't speak English,

*"Administration can open the locks. Faculty can open the door. But you, my dear students, have to step through it."*

**Dr. LaMar**



Photo by Bill Wittkop

**Dr. Ansley LaMar**

or the student who, despite being arrested for prostitution, still went to college and thrived.

"Our students don't work if they don't have to. I also know that if we raise our standards, our students meet that standard," said Dr. LaMar.

"We've lowered our standard to the point where students feel entitled. They don't choose to study to get a good grade," said Dr. LaMar, "I'm stunned students believe they can work full time, go to school full time, have a full social life, and still get good grades! Someone taught them that it was okay to negotiate with professors in order to get good grades."

But, what can students do to defy these conspiracies?

Dr. LaMar had many words of advice. "Go to class everyday and be an active participant and

be an active participant because you have read the material. You should also visit your professors during their office hours, how many students do that? Visit your professor and ask him what their expectations are, then exceed them."

More importantly, however, students need to stop "chasing A's."

"If you chase the A, it will run away," said Dr. LaMar, "But if you write a vision statement for yourself on where you see yourself in five years, at the beginning of every semester, you can go back and review those essays at the end of the semester."

In closing, Dr. LaMar challenged the administration and university to help students.

"I think every student who comes to NJCU should go to the OSP program or TLC program and if we cannot supply those services to all of our students, we need to stop recruiting students that we can't accommodate."

The burden isn't just on students alone, but Dr. LaMar says he envisions the faculty members to come together and talk about the shared vision of the university.

"I would love for us to develop a trust relationship where we could just show up to each others classes, unannounced, and give each other feedback on our teaching style, content, and etc..."

Dr. LaMar also expressed concern over professors who don't

challenge students.

"I think all our students need to be challenged, adamantly," said Dr. LaMar, "I think as faculty members we need to come together and correct each other, I think education is about being challenged."

Dr. LaMar feels that there also needs to be an across-the-board increase in standards for students. When standards are increased, however, it means the professors have to help students meet them.

"Classes with three credit classes have to be for four hours, three hours for content and one hour on how to figure out and engage that content," said Dr. LaMar.

He also feels that professors have to "adopt" five students a semester and coach them for a semester. For one hour a week professors would teach students how to negotiate the system.

"If all of the 300 full-time faculty did that, we'd help 1,500 students a semester. 1,500 students who now know how to negotiate the system, know how to study, know how to improve, and know that there is somebody holding them accountable," said Dr. LaMar.

Dr. LaMar feels that ultimately the responsibility falls on students.

"Administration can open the locks. Faculty can open the door. But you, my dear students, have to step through it."

# ART & ENTERTAINMENT

## Visions of the Vanished will rock out at Bamboozle

By Armando Sultan

Rumbling of the drum beat, the feedback of an electric guitar reverberating through your chest, screaming and yelling penetrating your ear drums as you notice a small little stage with a banner reading Visions of the Vanished.

"The performance had a lot of energy..." Roberto Miranda says about the first round's performance, "we were tight and we feed off of each others energy."

Through hard work and a little bit of luck, Visions of the Vanished was chosen to play in Round 2 of the Bamboozle Battle of the Bands.

"The Break Contest," is the place where these bands gather to do battle. Chill, a quaint stage

in Montclair, is scene the of war where the weapons of choice happen to be guitars, drums, and a microphone.

Bamboozle has hosted bands like Incubus, Foo Fighters, and Bon Jovi. As a band to play next to these superstars is equivalent to tossing the football around with Calvin Johnson. In order for a small time band to be given a chance to play, they must compete with each other for the limited spots.

Visions of the Vanished have this chance to expose themselves to these prestigious bands and thrust them into a world they've only dreamed of.

"It's an opportunity amongst opportunities," Roberto Miranda said about Bamboozle, "...you see your favorite bands there, it

is almost unrealistic. Not to mention, exposing yourself to complete strangers that can be ultimate fans."

Darren Torres is responsible for the singing and the rawness of emotion through screams. Roberto Miranda and Ernesto Grassi switch of between lead and rhythm, moving and shredding to melodic metal riffs. Alejandro Meno grooves and emanates energy on the bass. The carpet to all these harsh melodies falls into the hands of Ryan Welsh on the drums.

The first round performance began with "Voices," a song that Roberto Miranda says "resembles the cycle through everyday life." A fluid transition sets up "Forever Yours," which highlights dynamic relationship be-

tween of the guitarist. "One Step Closer" and "Time to Love, Time to Hate" closed off the show on a strong note.

"It has no chorus, and I think it's rare to have a good song with no chorus," Roberto enthusiastically comments about the song "Built for Ashes." The song that the band is excited to introduce in the second round.

The bands influence span from Avenged Sevenfold, Killswitch Engage, to the more melodic Parkway Drive and AFI. Hearing "Voices" and "Forever Yours" you can get a sense where these influences really came into play.



flickr.com

Visions of the Vanished

March 11th in Chill, located on 312 Bloomfield Avenue. The band needs your support to both attend and give them a listen. You can contact the band and listen to their music through facebook.com/visionsofthevanished. You can also support the band by voting for them on reverbration.com/visionsofthevanished.

## Kappa Pi Eta Rho introduces first annual exhibition

By Jennifer Vazquez

The NJCU chapter of Kappa Pi Eta Rho, an arts honors society, featured their first annual exhibition "NJCU 1st Annual International Honorary Art Society Exhibition: Kappa Pi Eta Rho Chapter" in the Visual Arts Building (VAB) gallery. The exhibition opened on February 6th from 4pm-6pm, with an opening reception on February 7th. The gallery exhibit closed on February 17th. Society President Elizabeth Harney, 23, BFA Drawing/Painting major from Toms River, couldn't help but mention that, "Yes, this is a very long name for an exhibition." However, the name wasn't the only thing packed in this show.

Kappa Pi Eta Rho is an art honor society on campus, with their very first show in 2010. In order to gain admission into the co-ed fraternity, you

must be an Art major or Art minor; you do need to produce art. This art-exclusive society only accepts students who have been recommended by their professors, or (if you're gutsy), you can submit a portfolio to be reviewed. This is the first time the society is run exclusively by students.

The exhibition was loaded with a variety of works made with different media from multiple artists. One work, Rupert Murdoch by Harney, became the attention grabber for the show as it was the largest piece in the whole exhibition. It was one of many striking works in the show that alluded to the level of skill the members of this art honors

society have. "The show's purpose was to give members a platform to show their work and to make Kappa Pi more visible

within the NJCU community," said Harney.

The gallery was curated by the society officers; President Elizabeth Harney, Vice President Harshal Shah, 22, Digital Design/Illustration major from Jersey City; Treasurer Saira Anum, 22, Printmaking major from Jersey City; and "The Reporter" James Hernandez, 22, Illustration and Art Teaching Certification major from North Bergen. According to Harney the gallery featured art from "all members of Kappa Pi who wanted to show their work, and that included students, faculty, and alumni."

The pieces shown were collectively chosen by the officers. Harney said there were very little complications in preparing the show, despite it being solely run by student officers. "We had a date scheduled for March and it got moved up and it was hard to get everyone's work last minute,



"Cotton Experimental," 2010, acrylic on cotton sari by Harshal Shah



"Rupert Murdoch", 2011, Acrylic on canvas by Elizabeth Harney

Photos provided by Jennifer Vazquez



Kappa Pi Eta Rho

SAMUEL GUZMAN

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by Fred Carmichael

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LIFESTYLE

# Style up your dorm room to your personality

By Jordan Freels

Feel like your dorm room is bland or boring? Do not fret; you can spruce up your home away from home by bringing in items and important necessities that will make your college years more enjoyable. Freshman, Brandon Littlepage, 21 years old, Business Major from Magnolia designed his room to fit his Black and Japanese heritage.

While shopping for the school year Brandon bought the essentials he needed. A typical bed set, which included other necessary bedding, cost around \$60. All in all, his shopping spree cost more



This custom-made arcade stick is one of Brandon Littlepage's prized possessions.

than \$200.00. The few posters he has displayed on his wall are ones that could be found at any local Wal-Mart, or Target, many which reflect the loving hobby he has of playing video games. One poster that is special to him is his Kratos Poster, a character from the video game God of War. There were only a few copies of the poster printed, and Brandon happened to be working at a GameStop when he snagged his copy. One of Brandon's prized possessions is his custom made Arcade Stick which cost \$270. This special game controller has a 4-gate feature, which allows Brandon's gaming to run smoother because a computer screen can pick up clicks of a button faster than a regular tel-

evision. Brandon designed the Arcade Stick on the computer, but when the controller was shipped to him it had a dull grey and black face. He changed it by adding a few characters he admired, and also switched out the older sandwa buttons to samitsu buttons, which allows whatever game, preferably, 'Street Fighter' Brandon plays to run smoother. Not only does this Arcade Stick have special buttons, but his video-game screen name is etched on the plexi-glass case he has on top of it.

Brandon and ten of his hometown friends compete in tournaments every four to five months to play video games with other gamers. D.E.S., or Don't Ever Stop, the team name Brandon and his friends came up with also host their own tournaments, and frequently practice on 'Body Shop Saturdays.' Brandon explains the meaning behind Body Shop Saturdays, by saying,

"Today's youth calls being 'bodied' as a different term to replace 'losing' something, so when fellow competitors play against DES they are unaware of DES' skills are 'bodied,' once the game has ended.

When asked how Brandon decided to decorate his room, he replied,

"Well, it was pretty simple. I picked a color scheme. My favorite colors of course [are] red and black. [I also] wanted to mix in Asian culture."

Because Brandon incorporated an Asian theme on his side, he decided to go for a modern day 'Tokyo' Styled theme. It is not just the posters on his wall that reflect the theme he wanted to display, but also a Chinese Bell window charm which has a small plaque that says success on top



Mei Ling Wu's bed in the deomroom she shares with one other student.

of it. Brandon's side of the room compares and contrasts to his roommate. Brandon's roommates color scheme is blue-themed.

Brandon says, "Red and Blue are perfect opposites. These colors are the most common competitive colors."

Himself and his roommate were able to make their room one, without even realizing it, by having items such as posters on either side, that connect to both color schemes. Even something as trivial as Brandon's closet connects to his color scheme with red hangers to hang his things; everything is organized by the particular item, i.e. scarves, shirts, shorts, and shoes on the bottom. Each individual's side reflects who they are, and being that Brandon is a gamer and incorporated his Asian back-



Brandon is a gamer, which is reflected in posters from Unreal Tournament III.

ground he made his room fit his style.

Freshman, Mei Ling Wu, 18 years old, Photograph Major, from Bogota has a different snapshot to how her room is designed. Mei Ling expresses, "When I first realized that I was going to

dorm, it was a more of a 'do everything myself' kind of thing because my mother never agreed with dorming, but the situation in which we were living called for it. During the first two weeks, I was trying to find some cash for my essential necessities for my room—I kind of had an idea of the major things I needed. I still need more stuff, and the job I have is a very limited part time, I have to get all my things slowly yet as fast as possible."

Mei Ling said that once her and her roommate got acquainted they re-arranged their room to best suit them. Mei Ling has her room set up where she is able to have more privacy, and while it is not only for her own comfort, this arrangement was also done for any future guest that may visit herself or her roommate.

Mei Ling is an individual, who gives off positive energy and says, "I like being around people, most importantly helping them. I've learned that sometimes going out of

my way to help someone makes my heart smile."

She says, "I initially wanted to fill my walls with my artwork, but wasn't able to do so because of lack of materials."

Her warm-hearted spirit can be displayed on the wall in her room. Mei Ling has drawn a picture which reads, 'Liebe' and it means love in German. Her drawing was created in her 2D design class last semester. Above the drawing is a picture of her grandfather, herself, and her mother,

"Two people that mean the



Mei Ling displays original artwork in her dorm room.

most to mean, [which is] the reason why they're above the painting," says Mei Ling.

The 'Liebe' piece was not meant to be drawn in a two point perspective, but before it was hung it was tweaked a bit so it now resembles a 3D portrait. She also has another portrait from the same class which displays vertical lines; it sits between her two windows. Also below the painting is a picture of Mei Ling's niece who is now two-years-old.

While Brandon designed his room to incorporate his culture and love of games, Mei-Ling chose to include drawings and pictures of loved ones. No matter how one designs their room, they should feel proud as these two residents do because they made this room their own. They are comfortable with the set up because it reflects who they are as an individual.

Photos by Jordan Freels

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## LIFESTYLE

# Gourmet Dining hosts IRON CHEF Competition

By Paige Botjer

On February 22, Gourmet Dining held its first of many fun filled competitions to come. The challenge was called the Iron Chef Salad Competition and it was one of great ideas and talent among the many participants. Six different teams brought their salad ingredients to the table—some as traditional as mushrooms, or spinach and others as imaginative as cheeseburger—and set out to make the best possible salad.

At six o'clock, eleven students stood in the main dining hall of the Gilligan Student Union Building (GSUB) dressed in white aprons and paper chef's hats to complete the look. With a bowl to their left and a cutting board to their right, lined with the five teams of two and the one team of one set out to create the best salad for the judges.

Each chef was unique in creating his or her very own original salad that was sure to impress

anyone who ate it. Sophia Sandu created a sweet and spicy Asian fusion salad with chicken, cranberries, almonds and nectarines while the next team created something very different: a cheeseburger salad.

There was even a team that couldn't decide on which salad would win over the judges so they decided to make two!

And Michael Smalls, a transfer student and also an employee of Gourmet Dining put together an abundance of exotic ingredients to form his salad. But in the end, as Trevor Falzarano, a twenty-year-old transfer student from Morris County College said as he cut some red onions for his salad, "It's going to be delicious!"

While most of the contestants created salads based on their favorite foods or something excellent that they used to eat at a restaurant, one group, Amanda and Anthony, created an excellent salad that Amanda's mother always used to make. Their salad, Sweet and Slim was very simple

with its ingredients but it was the homemade dressing that really made it pop and once topped with heart-shaped strawberries, it was an absolute showstopper.

In the end, all of the salads looked amazing and as the judges could testify, the student chefs really outdid themselves with the ingredients that were presented to them. Taking home first place, as well as 100 flex dollars was Sophia Sandu, with her Sweet and Spicy Asian Fusion Salad. Sophia also gets her salad featured at Gourmet Dining's salad bar so all students can enjoy her amazing salad.

Second place and 50 flex dollars went to Mike Smalls and Hannah Botjer. And third place went, with 25 flex dollars as a prize, to Amanda and Anthony for their very tasty homemade salad.

New Jersey City University is going through a change for the better and Gourmet Dining is a part in that change. The management at Gourmet Dining plans on



Photo provided by Paige Botjer

Michael Smalls of Gourmet Dining creating his salad for the Iron Chef competition.

making events such as the Iron Chef Competition an ongoing thing. If you would like to know more about these events, visit GSUB or like Gourmet Dining on Facebook.

If you would like to try Sophia's winning salad, stop by the cafeteria's salad bar where Gourmet Dining is presenting the winning salad for students to purchase.

## NJCU students talk sex and relationships

By Kiera Rolle

Will men and women ever agree on anything? Since the beginning of time the male and female species have had different views as clear as day and night and it doesn't seem to be changing anytime soon. Even within our very own New Jersey City University community we see the drastic differences between the men and women on campus. To make things a little bit interesting we decided to do a survey and hand them out to 50 males and 50 females, the results could be shocking or they could be just the norm within our society today.

Sex seems to always be the topic that is pushed to the side or kept on the hush but in our society we can't ignore that sex is a major part of our everyday lives. While going through the survey topics, the ones about sex were the ones

that had the most drastic differences between both male and female. Does this radical difference strike as odd? The majority of the time sex has been handled distinctively different between men and women, though a small campus NJCU mirrors what goes on in our society as a whole.

One night stands seem to be getting a bit personal-but is it really? People within our day and age are becoming a little more comfortable and open with their sexuality and it in fact has become more of the norm.

But even if some people are comfortable with their openness doesn't mean everyone is quick to jump on the bandwagon. When asked in our school survey "Would you ever have a one night stand?" 70% of men said they certainly would while only 24% of women on our campus agreed, that's a huge difference in the numbers! Sharmelle Hunte (22,

Music major with a concentration in Music business) says "I'm not surprised when you think of one night stands you think of meaningless, no commitment, quick and easy sex, which fits the description of most men." However O'neil O'Connor (22, Criminal Justice major) expresses "females are just more concerned with being type casted as a certain type of image, where us men really don't care about that stuff."

When thinking about the opposite of a one night stand, a committed, till death do us part marriage comes to mind. Now what if you're married but the relationship is rocky or you're just not really happy anymore, would you seek happiness elsewhere? Interesting enough our survey showed that if you're not really satisfied with your marriage 40% of the males on campus said yes

they would have an affair. Females on our campus were asked the same exact question but only 6% said yes they will step outside of their "committed relationship." Again why the major difference between males and females? Britny Pacheco (21 Early childhood education and psychology major) expresses "I feel women are less likely to admit to not only themselves but to others that they would have an affair because of all the negative opinions society holds but people don't really know how they would react in a situation unless they are put in it." Joshua Lawrence (22 Business Management) feels "men are more open with expressing themselves when it comes to things sexually; women are more timid and scared because of negative stigmas. I honestly feel the numbers could be the same as the men

but women are too shy to say so."

Relationships will always have rocky moments and wonderful highs but what's important to keep that spark? According to our survey 84% of men and 48% of women agree that sex is very important in a relationship. According to Naeemah Taylor (21 Biology major) "I feel that if men and women are on the same page relationships would be more successful period, instead of it being clouded by sex." Very interesting compared to Kevon Simpson (20 Media Arts major) says "the number is so drastic because women think emotionally all the time and men just understand that there needs to be a balance."

The survey just proves that men and women will always have two very distinct opinions on just about everything and that will not be changing anytime soon.

## Use your refund check wisely

By Britney Woodard

After tuition is all paid for, any left over money from financial aid is generally refunded back to you. Yeah, the word is officially out and the money is most definitely in your wallet.... Or maybe it isn't. Sure money that is just given to you out of nowhere, does feel good but truth is, as young "mature" adults we can be a bit irresponsible at times, especially financial wise.

Refund checks are meant for personal expenses, such as transportation, daily costs, and most importantly books. Don't forget that loans are meant to be paid back, as soon as you finish school. Be technical about it, loans add up each year, especially if you're looking into graduate school. Don't spend your refund check carelessly for the sake of spending it, don't be greedy, don't take out more than you need! Don't foolishly take out a \$6000 loan when you know you only need \$2000. Truth of the



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matter is you are going to spend your refund check on foolish things that will barely affect your future.

If you don't have a permanent source of financial means, you might need some of that refund check on a rainy day. Instead of you going out and spending it on shoes, clothes, cars, etc. (unnecessary items that won't mean anything in the next 10 years) put it aside and you'll have something to fall back on as an alternative in case your sources fail.

The only thing you should be spending a serious amount of money on at this day and age is your education. It is your personal investment and can be the key to your success. You have the ability you just have to exert the force. It's better to be safe than sorry, so do yourself a favor, save yourself the stress, and don't go crazy, especially over a refund check. Learn how to budget and live below your means according to your necessities. Think about your future and think carefully.

### Mars vs. Venus

#### NJCU Survey Results

Based on a survey taken by 50 female and 50 male NJCU students. Percentages are those who answered "yes."

- 1) Have you ever flirted with someone you knew was in a relationship?  
Male: 78%  
Female: 52%
- 2) Do you consider the opposite sex on campus generally attractive?  
Male: 76%  
Female: 50%
- 3) Do you consider abstinence sexy?  
Male: 30%  
Female: 56%
- 4) Would you sleep with your best friend's ex/current boyfriend/girlfriend?  
Male: 24%  
Female: 0%
- 5) Is age important when you are dating someone?  
Male: 64%  
Female: 64%
- 6) Have you ever been in an abusive relationship?  
Male: 8%  
Female: 18%
- 7) Do you always use protection during sex?  
Male: 70%  
Female: 54%
- 8) Are you single?  
Male: 66%  
Female: 52%

OPINION/ADVICE

# Has your relationship run its course?

By Britney Woodard and Lian O'Donnell

Although you don't want to accept the fact that the love of your life is moving on, there are signs you need to look out for. Moving on is one of the hardest things you will need to do in your life. Don't feel too bad always remember there are other fish in the sea, plenty of them.

There are many situations where relationships will most likely have hardships. If your significant other



Photo provided by Britney Woodard  
Britney Woodard and Lian O'Donnell

was in a prior relationship when they started dating you, chance are it will happen again. Long distance relationships rarely work out. Some couples cannot withstand the lack of physical attention and can develop insecurities that lead to other challenges. If there is no communication with your significant other it's a sure way to damage the relationship. If you're not communicating every day, that's a problem. This is someone you want to express your daily mood to, how you are feeling, and how your day went. If your boyfriend/girlfriend only texts you and never calls you, deuces. They do not want to speak to you on the phone and that hints to problems.

Other issues can be involving friends. If they don't want you around their friends this can cause a problem. People find themselves in a lose-lose

battle when it comes down to friends and their love lives. This needs to be dealt with carefully.

Lack of affection can add on to stressful and heated arguments. While not everyone is a fan of public display of affection (PDA), others are. Not holding each other's hands, using the silent treatment (which is childish, F.Y.I.), kissing on the cheeks rather than the lips are all signs that something may be off. If the relationship started affectionate, both parties should try to continue it to

keep up the spark, but remember, it takes two to make it work. If things between you start dying, some awkwardness can set it.

Truth is, you shouldn't spend your time trying to make something work that obviously isn't going to function. Don't waste your time. You only live once and you might as well enjoy it instead of being miserable.

Shout out to the broken hearted: LIFE GOES ON! In order for you to experience true happiness, you must experience true pain. There are more appealing things out there in this world that life has to offer. One heart break is made up of millions. What doesn't kill you makes you stronger. Life goes on. All these stupid bumper sticker quotes can actually be inspirational; you just have to put meaning to them.

Chilltown USA welcomes the Jersey Shore's Guidettes.



Cartoon by Natalie Garcia

# Useful apps for the student on the go

By Juan Perez

College students are always in a hurry to class and work barely leaving them time to get anything done. All of these apps are some of the best productivity apps for college. These programs are perfect for any college student who would rather carry an Ipad than a laptop.

"Kobo," "Kindle," "Barnes & Noble," "Google Books,"



"Apple ebooks," "KnoBooks" - Just to name a few book apps that have both textbooks and standard books which are perfect for the college student who hates carrying heavy text books. Many of them also have options for annotation and little notes which can be synced to a chapter.

"Quick Office Pro HD" (\$19.99) and "Documents to Go" (\$16.99)

Both of these apps are the Microsoft office of the Ipad and they both connect to Google Docs and Drop box. These are data services



that allow you to store files and documents online so you can have access to them on any computer or smart phone with an in-

ternet connection. They also have the highest compatibility with Microsoft office documents, Excel and Power Point documents in 2003 format and both can open Word 2007-2010 documents with little problems.

"PDF reader Pro" (\$9.99) - An advance PDF App



that gives you access to secure PDF documents downloaded from an official library or the campus database which the native Ipad PDF software may not be able to open. You can also highlight, add bookmarks, and put a text box and type on the document. Great if you convert class PowerPoint Presentations to PDF.

"Notability" (\$9.99) - This app has multiple note-taking functions, audio recording, drawing with your finger, typing, and opening PDF documents. Best all purpose note-taking app and great for the price.

"Voice Reader Text to speech" (\$1.99) - This app allows you to open any non secure PDF to be read back aloud to you. It also allows you to type a text document that it can also read aloud to you. This app will cut down the time of reading those library articles, Blackboard



PDF's, and proof reading essays. It can also create audio versions of those PDF's and typed text documents giving the option of creating an audio study guide.

Onlive Desktop (Free) - This app turns your Ipad to a cloud based Windows 7 net-book. Translation you get to have Windows 7 with Word 2010, Power Point 2010, and Excel 2010 for free and 2 Gigabytes of storage while connected to the internet.



Merriam Webster Dictionary (\$3.99) - This is the best dictionary app on Ipad it has the option of either saying the word or typing the word to find it.

DocScan HD Pro - Document Scanner (\$3.99) - This app is great for the Ipad 2 you can take a picture of a document set up the outline and save it as a PDF. Great for creating PDF documents in class.



These applications are great for setting up an Ipad for classroom use. I have used many of these apps and strongly recommend them to those who are looking to lessen their work load. So get on I-tunes and check them out.

www.gothictimes.net

# Gov. Christie isn't taking higher education seriously

By Rafal Rogoza



Photo by Sean Rammarian  
Rafal Rogoza

Does Governor Christie really care about higher education or is he full of shitake mushrooms?

In his 2013 budgetary address in late February, Christie increased Tuition Aid Grant (TAG) funding by \$28 million and funding for four year colleges and universities by \$80 million - according to Christie's plan NJCU is expected to get a \$3.4 million increase.

This year during his address Christie looked very unfamiliar. He called higher education the

"key to advancement." Last year, all that was heard from Christie was "We can't afford it" as he cut \$55 million from TAG and left higher education funding flat. That cut had serious consequences, *The Gothic Times* found numerous students that didn't return to school because they couldn't afford it.

This meager "increase" in funding is really a spoon full of miso soup for starving students that are hungry for a long over due entree of teriaki chicken and soy dipping sauce. We need more money -- the \$3.4 million that NJCU is ex-

pected to receive isn't going to lower tuition as operating costs keep rising.

Frankly, I'm skeptical of the Governor's uncharacteristic decision considering that next year is an election year.

What the Governor is doing is playing a political game for his reelection. He can't run next year without giving the impression that he financially supported higher education. If Christie had decided not to increasing funding this year, the Democrats would exploit the fact that Christie cut funding for higher education during his term

as Governor. But now Christie can boast that he revitalized higher education in New Jersey.

Maybe the legislature will take higher education more seriously and increase funding to make tuition costs manageable for students. My guess is they will play politics and instead of being realistic they will increase it dramatically in an attempt to embarrass the Governor as he will be forced to use his veto power to cut it.

Holy dingle-berries when will they stop the shenanigans! It's enough to make your stomach turn.

## EDITORIAL/OPINION

## EDITORIAL

**Open Meeting closes door to public**

A Student Government Organization (SGO) meeting was held February 28 where a discussion of winter break's trip to India was discussed. The meeting had already begun when the executive board had requested all students who participated in the trip to leave the meeting. The reason for this motion was due to concerns of conflict of interest.

SGO meetings are open to the public and they should not be allowed to exclude any party. It is difficult enough to make students care and attend meetings at all. To suggest students to leave because

they have any affiliation with the topic at hand discourages any future involvement.

For SGO to request students to leave sends a negative message. If this was supposed to be a private meeting they should have specified that to the public in order to keep privacy in tact and avoid any misunderstandings. SGO should create a comprehensive conflict of interest policy that clarifies that proper procedures should be taken in according to Robert's Rules.

Faculty, staff, and administrators present at these meetings should correct the council when

they improperly perform a task or function.

The winning side of the vote should have another vote out of principal and respect for ethics. The motion would have to be worded differently, however it can be done.

SGO should stop listening to the whispers of the administration and the nagging of misinformed students. They should, however, focus on proper procedures and ethics when it comes to performing their daily functions and tasks. Students who complain of a lack of transparency need to approach SGO in a tactful manner.

**Cultural decay**

By Atila Azami

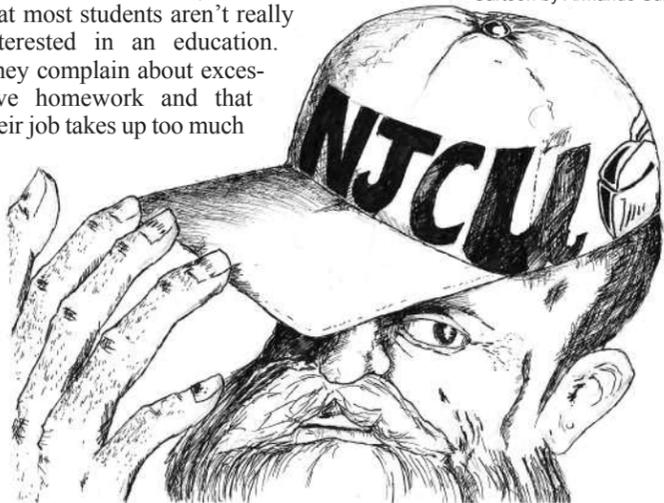
In a walk through the cafeteria or the commons of GSUB, one will inevitably overhear conversations of the students that occupy the walls of our academic institution. The trouble is that the conversations often aren't academic, stimulating or even interesting in the slightest. Why? Isn't a university supposed to be a hub for academia, intellectual stimulation and pursuit of enticing interests? The educational standstill isn't isolated to NJCU. The social lesions abovementioned are merely symptoms of the cultural cancer that has engulfed American society.

This is my third semester at NJCU, and it's been my inference that most students aren't really interested in an education. They complain about excessive homework and that their job takes up too much

time. I am a working-class immigrant and I can empathize with their legitimate gripes. However, I've resorted to taking out hefty loans so that I could be a full-time student and dedicate my time for a worthwhile education. Even if one doesn't believe in the intrinsic value of erudition, it's inarguable that an education is an investment for the future.

That is partly my point; in the status quo, even the most essential needs of a civil society have become merely a means to the ultimate end: money. The university has become a de facto vocational school that provides "skills" to students to join the workforce and

Cartoon by Armando Sultan



Atila Azami

become efficient drones. They are "educated" just enough to be productive at their respective occupations. This is the new face of serfdom.

I'm not saying don't major in fields that reflect the demand in the job market or anything else that will help provide security for the future—it's a goal. We all have to join the workforce eventually. What I'm saying is that the college experience should be much more than procuring "skills" for work. The so-called skills that are necessary for the job will be easily ascertained on the job, given that during college one used the time to hone the faculties of the mind through a comprehensive course list that demands critical thinking and piques interest, both of which whet the appetite for inquiry. Ultimately, the goal for an undergraduate degree should be to teach students critical thinking and how to learn, not to acquire "techne" (skills) rather "episteme" (knowledge), as Plato distinguished. Unfortunately, the squalor of The Acropolis has seeped into The Academy.

The epoch preceding the Age of Enlightenment has been appropriately dubbed the Middle Ages or, for the sake of metaphor-

ical cohesiveness, the "Dark Ages" and was directly correlated to the level of education of its population. Prior to the scientific revolution that fueled enlightenment, myth supplied by those in power, The Catholic Church at that time dominated the stage to manipulate the public. Contemporarily, it's the corporations that supply the myths implemented through advertisements. The sources have changed; the message is essentially the same. Rather than pray and make me rich, it's consume and make me rich.

The ages old class struggles aside, there are tremendous rewards in the pursuit of education. I believe, as humans, there is a priori hunger for learning. That is not to say there are no levels of this desire in individuals; clearly, they fluctuate. However, if one follows a path of learning, whether autodidactic or structural, an incredible new meaning to life is created. Not everyone is fit, or interested, in pursuing academia

as a profession, that is a given; however, in the wise words of Socrates, "the life which is unexamined is not worth living." If we don't cultivate and harvest the inherent need for knowledge, we will fall prey to things like television, senseless browsing of the internet ad infinitum, and insatiable consumption of worthless products.

The biggest difference between an Ivy League student and an NJCU student is the expectation of success that we demand of ourselves. Society shouting our inevitable failure is only reinforced by the low standard of education demanded by the faculty. We, as a result, internalize and respond to these societal expectations and settle for the subpar. I say, let's rise above and demand excellence. Because of the obstacles we've faced since our birth, we have unmatched tenacity and will. With these precious assets focused, there is no reason why we can't prove the naysayers, the scoffers and the skeptics wrong. "I am the master of my fate/I am the captain of my soul."

A free-thinking, critical populace is not in the best interest of those in power that want the majority to keep their heads down and obey. Without a critical mind, one cannot discern self-interest. As long as we let other people do our thinking for us, we won't get what we need. If we don't know what we really need, we won't develop our own voice. Without our own voice, we will carry out other people's interests. We can't leave it up to the politicians to seek out the best interests of society. Politicians aren't genuinely interested in justice. It's up to us to make it happen.

So, before you ask yourself why the author of this opinion piece is such a pompous [insert dismissive insult here], ask why the poverty rate is currently higher than it has been in past 40 years; why there are more people in prison in America—over 60% of them minorities—than there were Russians in the Gulag during Stalin's reign; why the arrival of cast members of the Jersey Shore in Jersey City is newsworthy?

**A broken heart can lead to success**

By Ally

Most of us have been there: you feel empty, a stone is stuck in your throat, your eyes burn from tears, you feel completely and utterly heart broken. Breaking up with your significant other is never an easy thing to do, especially if strong emotions were involved. With that said, stop moping around! Don't dwell in the past and mistakes, instead, focus on the brighter side of things; focus

on you.

When we break up with someone or a marriage fails, our daily routine is ultimately changed. You have to adjust not seeing them, not sleeping in the same bed with them, you might even have to adapt the lack of loving text messages from them. You suddenly have too much time on your hands to think.

No matter what, keep yourself busy. When you over think those recent events, that's when you over react and make those angry calls/texts messages (warning: keep away from any alcohol to prevent drunk dialing). Listening to encouraging music can help tremendously, stay away from dreary music. Fellas, stop listening to the music you used to listen to with her, ladies, put down the Adele CD and walk away.

Surround yourself with those who will love you unconditionally. Family and friends are there to hear you and really listen. Your

closest friends will let you know when you are at fault, but they will be there to lend a shoulder. Family will be there no matter what you do. Usually parents are first to defend their "babies." When you are at your lowest point and feel worthless, you can depend on your family to lift you back up and realize your self worth.

Never bottle up your emotions. Keeping your emotions in and avoiding dealing with them can be self-destructive. You may find yourself in a middle of a conversation with someone when a debate is presented and your anger, frustration, and sadness may explode at the wrong time.

Carrying all that anger in can also be brought into a new relationship which will lead into a road side bomb. Learn to deal with the emotions and accept the truth. Easier said than done, right? This will take the longest time to do but it does help to vent and talk

about it.

Believe it or not, you will get through this. It will hurt to realize any future plans you may have had with that person are now obsolete, but that doesn't mean you're life is over. Try to take this as a clean slate, a door opening for new ideas only for yourself.

You can take all your negative emotions and apply them to positive things. You can push yourself to finish school, really try for that promotion, start new healthy habits. Grasp the opportunity to reinvent yourself. Keep in mind, success is the best revenge.

Everything happens for a reason. Some people always have a hard time seeing the good in goodbye. Just try to remember you are worth more than second place if they didn't realize that someone will come along and make sure you're first. Don't spend your days and nights missing someone who truly does not think you're worth missing at all.

Photo by Sean Rammarian  
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# SPORTS

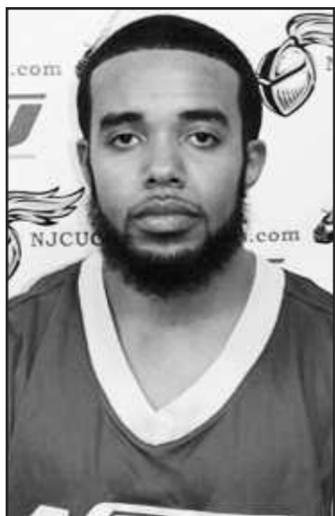


Photo by NJCU Sports Information  
**Keith Williams**

Stats: Williams vs. Abdullah			
Williams		Abdullah	
247.0	Pts	166.0	
10.3	Pts/G	6.9	
96.0	Ast	26.0	
4.0	Ast/G	1.1	
89.0	Reb	81.0	
3.7	Reb/G	3.4	
6.0	Blk	21.0	
0.3	Blk/G	0.9	
60.0	Stl	14.0	
2.5	Stl/G	0.6	
794.0	Min	568.0	
33.1	Min/G	23.7	

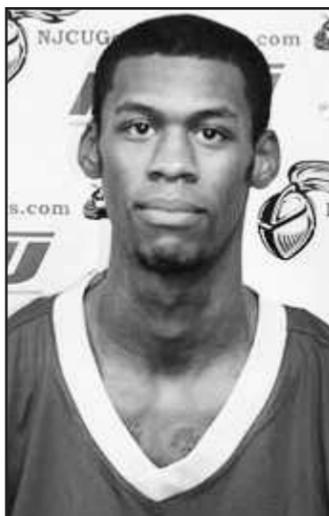


Photo by NJCU Sports Information  
**Taquan Abdullah**

## NJCU Men's Basketball

# NJCU athletes pursue the Pro draft

By Alvert Hernandez

NJCU's very own Senior basketball players, Keith Williams, 22, Business Administration, from Jersey City, NJ and Taquan Abdullah, 22, Accounting, from Kenilworth, NJ, will be pursuing the Pro Draft after graduation.

Both players were the team captains and will be heading to a camp in New Hampshire to display their talents to various scouts. When asked about whether they like to play in either the Euro League or the NBA, both said the Euro League.

"The Euro League is real. We can develop more of our game playing overseas," said Abdullah, who has played all four years here at NJCU.

Williams is a transfer and only played two years here at NJCU. Head Coach Marc Brown ranked Williams and Abdullah out of all the players he's coached.

"Top 10 [easily]," said Coach Brown. "They have contributed a lot these past years."

The contribution has been stellar. Since these two players have played together, they have contributed a 36-17 record with a NJAC title. This past season, Williams averaged 10.3 Pts/G, 4.0 Ast/G and 2.5 Stl/G while Abdullah averaged 6.0 Pts/G, 3.4 Reb/G, and 0.6 Stl/G.

The Gothic Knights went 17-7 this past season and failed to earn a NJAC Tournament bid in their final regular season home game. Despite that, they had an astounding home record of 10-2.

Playing Division III basketball arguably hinders a player's chances of going pro. Don't tell that to Williams and Abdullah.

"Division III basketball does not hurt us. Division I doesn't worry about their players' overall game, the intangibles, and the little things that help you become solid players," said Williams. "I think we can take on some Division I teams. [We can take on] St. Peter's."

Coach Brown shared his thoughts on his players applying for the Pro Draft and their oppor-



Photo by NJCU Sports Information  
**Keith Williams will be entering the Pro Draft after graduation.**

tunity to play either in the NBA or overseas.

"In the NBA, no. But if you put them in the right team, country, and style, then maybe they can succeed," said Coach Brown.

## NJCU Athlete Profile: Bez Arslani

By Alex Johanesen

Off comes the shiny black bracelet Bez Arslani always wears. He puts it in the right shoe he has just taken off, a shoe that will be replaced by a neon green volleyball sneaker. The shoe carrying his bracelet and its lefty counterpart always goes into his bag, toes facing the court.

"Well, I can't wear the bracelet during a volleyball game." He shrugs. "Putting it in my shoe is some type of superstitious thing I think, but it helps me."

It certainly does. In four weeks Arslani has captured Skyline Conference Rookie of the Week 3 times; the one week he didn't, he made the conference Honor Roll.

The 19-year-old freshman outside hitter from Wayne, New Jersey only just began his career as a Gothic Knight men's volleyball player. However, Arslani's impact has been tremendous, bracelet or no bracelet.

"I found the bracelet in my brother's room. My brother is my hero. I look up to him because of what and how he does things in his life. This bracelet helps me play volleyball. No matter how far away, my brother's always with me. I hear him in my head when I'm playing," said Arslani.

Family fuels Arslani's drive. "My number one fan is my sister. She comes to all my games no matter how far they are." He adds, "My family is everything to me. Without their support I wouldn't be where I am today."

The health science major attends NJCU because it's close to home. Yet, a second home is being forged on the volleyball court.

"Our team is like a big family. Say we lose a point. No one gets mad at each other. It's unlike last year. In high school it was 'all about Bez.' I wanted to have fun—that was what I was looking for. Not for everything to be about me," he said.

Considering the offensive threat that he poses, Arslani's favorite aspect of the game might surprise some.

"My favorite thing about playing is getting a dig [passing the ball after the opposing team attacks it]. You get so hyped up and bring the other player's momentum down," said Arslani.

His passion proves to be a great part of the team's successes. Much like his brother has helped him to be his best, Arslani motivates his teammates to do better.

"Besides his great talent, Bez brings fire, heart and a winning attitude to the team. His leadership is unlike any freshman that has come in to the program since I came here in 2005," said head coach Kevin Rodgers. "On the court he contributes in every aspect of the game. He leads our team in service aces, kills, digs, and has

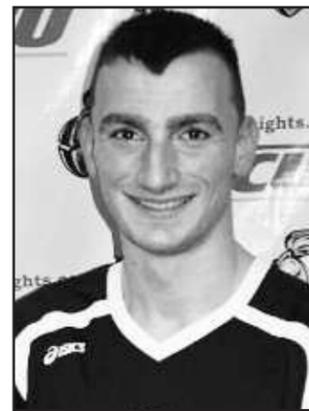


Photo by NJCU Sports Information  
**Bez Arslani**

one of the highest passing percentages on the team. Off the court, he has one of the highest GPAs. The great thing about Bez is he wants to be even better. He knows he can be an elite student-athlete and he's doing everything necessary to be one."

Arslani so far has contributed 237 kills with a .247 hitting percentage, 102 digs, 23 blocks and 27 service aces for 59 games, 17 matches. The Gothic Knights make their way through the season at 8-9 overall, 5-4 in the Skyline Conference. They have 13 matches left until the regular-season ends. The team is optimistic, especially with such effort from one of the starting players.

"You can just tell how much Bez loves and cares about the game by the way he pushes for every point. If he does something wrong, he'll immediately ask one of the captains or the coaches what he needs to do to fix it," said senior co-captain Kenny Lisk, a 21 year-old chemistry and secondary education major from Old Bridge. "He's already done so much this year, but there's no sign of slowing down. He's going to have a very special career and will be a great leader for this program."

With the superstitious luck of his bracelet and his family, on the court and off, pushing him towards his goals, Arslani may accomplish more than conference accolades and post-season victories. He hopes that after his collegiate career he can play on a professional volleyball team in Europe. After that, he believes teaching physical education and coaching are his calling.

## NJCU Athletics - March 2012 Schedule

### Men's Volleyball

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Mar. 4	Coll. of Mt. Saint Vincent	Riverdale, NY	10:00am
Mar. 4	Polytechnic Inst. of NYU	Riverdale, NY	12:00pm
Mar. 9	Stevenson University	Stevenson, MD	5:00pm
Mar. 17	River College	Jersey City, NJ	10:00am
Mar. 17	Vassar College	Jersey City, NJ	2:00pm
Mar. 24	MA Inst. of Technology	Beverly, MA	12:00pm
Mar. 24	SUNYIT	Beverly, MA	2:00pm
Mar. 25	Rivier College	Beverly, MA	10:00am
Mar. 25	Johnson & Wales Univ.	Beverly, MA	2:00pm

### Baseball

(DH) – indicates double-header

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Mar. 3	Centenary College (DH)	Jersey City, NJ	11:00am
Mar. 10	Daniel Webster College	Groveland, FL	2:00pm
Mar. 11	McDaniel College	Winter Haven, FL	9:30am
Mar. 12	Rhode Island College	Winter Haven, FL	11:30am
Mar. 13	Lesley University	Winter Haven, FL	9:30am
Mar. 15	Mount St. Mary Coll.	Lakeland, FL	12:00pm
Mar. 16	Framingham St. Univ. (DH)	Auburndale, FL	9:00am
Mar. 17	Sewanee Univ. of the South	Auburndale, FL	1:00pm
Mar. 20	Neumann University	Jersey City, NJ	3:30pm
Mar. 22	St. Joseph's Coll. Brooklyn	Jersey City, NJ	3:30pm
Mar. 24	St. Joseph's Coll. ME (DH)	Jersey City, NJ	12:00pm
Mar. 25	St. Joseph's Coll. ME	Jersey City, NJ	11:00am
Mar. 27	John Jay College	Jersey City, NJ	3:30pm
Mar. 29	Drew University	Madison, NJ	3:30pm
Mar. 31	Rutgers-Newark (DH)	Newark, NJ	11:30am

### Bez Arslani 2012 Stats:

**K: 59**  
**K/Set: 17-15**  
**E: 237**  
**TA: 4.02**  
**Pct: 113**  
**A: 502**  
**A/Set: .247**  
**TA: 12**  
**Pct: 0.20**  
**SA: 54**  
**SA/Set: .222**

## SPORTS

# Super LIntendo

By Alberto Arias

The arrival of Jeremy Lin has captivated the basketball universe and has created a media uproar that the NBA has not seen in years. The 6'3," 200 lbs., Asian point guard, has taken over headlines across the U.S and has brought the New York Knickerbockers a surge of momentum. Madison Square Garden, the Mecca of Basketball, is rocking and the excitement is back in the World's Greatest Arena. This story has captured the hearts and minds of the NBA fans, media outlets, and aspiring athletes.

This underdog tale starts with Lin playing for Ivy League's Harvard University from 2006-2010. He was then undrafted and slipped through all 32 teams' radars. He was invited by the Dallas Mavericks' Summer League squad but did not manage to make the first-team squad. He was also cut from the Golden State Warriors and Houston Rockets. Ultimately he was shipped to the Developmental League and was out of the NBA.

On December 19th Lin was claimed off of waivers by the New York Knicks. he was at the end of the bench and fourth in the Point Guard rotation. Before signing a ten day contract with the Knicks, he was actually sleeping on his teammate Landry Field's couch.

Nevertheless, he continued to arrive first at practice, leave last, intensely study game film, and work with coaches to improve his footwork and

point guard skills. The Knicks were 8-15 and had lost 11 of 13 when head coach, Mike D'Antoni, out of desperation, he subbed Jeremy Lin into the lineup in a Feb. 4th game against Hudson River rival New Jersey Nets. At the time, there was speculation that D'Antoni's job was at risk. In this game, Lin outplayed Nets' All-Star PG Deron Williams and had career highs with 25 points, 5 rebounds, and 7 assists.

After only 12 games he was selected to the Rising Stars game for the All-Star weekend. Lin has led the Knicks to a 9-3 record since joining the rotation. In his first twelve starts Lin has averaged 22.5 points and 8.7 assists. Lin came from the depths of last on the bench to a franchise saving PG. Lin has managed to break the NBA record for the most points and assists in those first twelve starts.

A PG is a facilitator, floor general, and tempo setter. Lin possesses all these qualities along with his devastating cross over and stutter step. His explosiveness sets up penetration lanes and this has set up opportunities for his other teammates. He is a team player but some speculate the chemistry issues alongside star forwards Carmelo Anthony and A'mare Stoutemire, who are players who take the bulk of the offensive field goals.

The only thing that is holding back Lin is his turnover propensity. His attacking style makes him the prototype



Left: Jeremy Lin's fans show their colors.

Below: The man himself.

PG for the D'Antoni run and gun offense. He is now the main focus for opposing head coaches and game plan around him. Regardless of this, Lin has managed to break the NBA record for the most points and assists in his first twelve games.

Lin's fame has gained him many nicknames, such as "Linccredible," "Lintastic," "Linderella," and even "Super Lintendo." Tickets sales in MSG have sky rocketed and have had a 27 percent increase. He has already signed a deal with Nike and according to Forbes is worth an estimate of \$15 million.

The phenomenal Lin has increased NBA fans love for the game. The Knicks have 14 home games remaining on the schedule. The NBA regular season ends on April 26th. Tune into MSG to witness the "Linsanity."



## NJCU Women's Bowling

# Success Keeps a Rollin'

By Vanity Delbridge

As the season continues on, the NJCU women's bowling team gears up for the grand spectrum of it all, the NCAA National Collegiate Championship. With an impressive overall record of 64-35, they are headed in the right direction under the leadership of two-time National Coach of the Year, Frank Parisi, and assistant coach, Rusty Thomsen, who is too an accomplished bowler.

Despite not being ranked amongst the top ten teams for the first time in history, they have still managed to set records and sweep awards. They swept the weekly conference awards for the first time in 3 years as a NEC associate member.

When asked what was the biggest win of their season, Parisi replied, "Sacred Hart University and University of Maryland Eastern Shore." They played the number 2 and 6th ranked seeds, in which they came back to pull off a victory after trailing 0-3 against Sacred Heart, finishing 4-3; and after that, they were on a roll, defeating University of Maryland of Eastern Shore 4-1.

As for some of the players who



NJCU Women's Bowling team

Photo by NJCU Sports Information

stood out this season, "were a pretty balanced team," said Parisi.

Sonja Shirak, 18, Early Childhood Education, from Clifton, NJ had her best individual career

effort, posting a 191 average and 955 pinfall in five games (188-203-211-186-167) to finish 13th among 126 bowlers. At the Morgan State University James Brown Invitational, she earned Second Team All Tournament Team honors, placing 6th overall of 134 competitors after posting a remarkable 216 average on day two of the competition with 1083 total pinfall.

Shirak stated that her biggest win of the season was when she

took first place at the Dover, Delaware tournament. "I was honestly on cloud nine, I knew I had potential to keep up with the girls at these tournaments that we were put in, but when they called my name for first place I was shocked."

Speaking fondly of her teammates and coaches, "I can honestly say, I have the best coaches in the world; they have this incredible quality to them, that when I am down or they see that

I need to talk, they are there within a heartbeat. They see what others can not and sometimes know what is best for me or the team before we or I realize it."

With the great news surrounding assistant coach Thomsen this past weekend, the girls are definitely going to want to put their best foot forward for the remainder of the season. Thomsen has advanced past the qualifying stage of the 2012 U.S. Open, following Friday mornings Cashers Qualifying Round at the 69th U.S. Open, being held this week at Brunswick Zone Caroliers Lanes.

In his 10th year as NJCU's assistant coach, he is the only player from the state of New Jersey to reach the round of 24. During the next stage of the tournament, he will bowl each of the final 23 keggers in the field.

As for the rest of the season, they are outside eight teams looking in. They may have had a bit of a shaky road for some of the past couple weeks, but as Coach Parisi said, "that is all in the past now, we have to focus on what is ahead." He then goes on to speak of his Thomsen, "he is also a very big part of why this program is what it is today and continues to be, along with his expertise that he instills in our team."

Shirak sees a bright future for the Gothic Knights as well, "our teamwork and dedication will get us extremely far, we click real well and understand what we all are going through; they are there for me constantly and I will definitely be there when they need me, I couldn't have asked for a better group of girls." She adds, "With our heart/drive and our coaches' support, I see nothing but good things to happen in the rest of the season."



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