Unprecedented: Current BCC Student Creates Scholarship

Norman Shafto
Copy Editor

For the first time in history, a scholarship has been created by a currently enrolled student at Bergen Community College.

Steven Chung, president of the Honors Association during the Fall 2012 semester, created a $3000 scholarship with the help of Laurie Francis, Executive Director of the BCC Foundation.

Chung shared that when he first came to Bergen, he had a friend, Hector Polanco, who was in a similar situation to many of the students. Financial issues were number one on Polanco’s list of worries. Despite the hardships, he managed to successfully graduate with an Honors Diploma and transfer to Columbia University. Chung realized how many highly accomplished students experience financial difficulties which impede them from going to prestigious educational institutions. Chung wanted to ease the financial burden on his fellow classmates despite being a student himself.

He is working towards graduating with a social work major and believes that students should collectively serve each other for the greater good so that they can continue onto great pathways despite financial difficulties.

Although not sure how to go about it at first, Chung discovered that anyone can create a scholarship through an extremely simple process. All one needs to do is to make an appointment to meet with the Executive Director of the BCC Foundation and discuss with her the details regarding the scholarship. From then on, she will contact the donor regularly to ensure that the scholarship meets his or her wishes.

Apart from creating the Steven W. Chung Honors Scholarship, Chung is also working with Laurie Francis to create the first School of Honors alumni network. The main purpose of the network is to make it easier for alumni to contribute in the creation of scholarships, as well as to have continuous involvement with the Honors Program. This alumni network will be the first to be created that will be related to the School of Honors.

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Romero Proves No Sight Needed For Talent

Brian Felix
Staff Writer

Daniel Romero, 19, is in the music program at Bergen Community College. What’s different about him? He is a blind disc jockey with his own radio studio and recording studio at home.

Romero makes his music and love for radio broadcasting seriously. He has a three hour Internet radio show of his own on TRBN that he runs out of his room. He takes phone calls, discusses news and releases topic questions to discuss on the show. Romero said, “We’ll have topics like, ‘Have you ever witnessed Paranormal Activity?’ and ‘Is it OK for your ex to be friends with your current friends?’”

Romero also makes his own music and collaborates with other local artist and hosts his own internet radio show. Like a true musician, Romero’s workflow begins at the keyboard, “What I do is create it on the board, then everything else like changes and stuff is done on the computer. [The mix and master of] the project and vocals are all done on the computer,” Romero said.

In a bedroom studio fitted with a Yamaha Motif, Romero records his music on soundcloud.com/DJDanRomero. His music can be found on his twitter account, @DJDanRomero, and he also posts his music on soundcloud.com/danrommusic.1. This is just one example of all the BCC holds.

Over the past year or so, numerous changes have been made in several of the administrative offices at Bergen Community College, including those of the President and Vice President of Academic Affairs.

This semester Bergen received its new President, Dr. B. Kaye Walter, who took the position that was being held by the Interim President, Dr. Jose Adames. With the appointment of the new President, Dr. Adames returned to his previous position as Vice President for Academic Affairs.

As the majority of the students and faculty were unaware of the previous Interim Dean of the School of Virtual Studies, Dr. Thomas Jewell.

Dr. Jewell previously served as Director of Forensics, a faculty member at the University of New Mexico for 16 years and as an Interim Dean of the School of Virtual Studies and then Assistant Dean of the Weekend College at Marymount College for three years. He joined the Bergen Community College faculty in the Communication department, before his appointment to Interim Dean of the School of Virtual Studies.

Dr. Adames, contrary to the rumors spreading throughout the school, was not fired, but chose to resign, according to Dr. Jewell and several others. The exact reasons for his resignation are currently unknown, although according to NorthJersey.com, he stated that he is exploring other professional opportunities.

Dr. Adames was hired in 2010 as Vice President for Academic Affairs, and later on took the position of Interim President until Dr. Walter was chosen for the presidency.

In an interview, Interim Vice President Dr. Jewell said that such occurrences happen all the time, “I’m sure that the President is committing her full efforts in finding the best person to take up the position”, stated Dr. Jewell.

When a leadership position is found, they will pass through the standard interviewing process by the President and the Board of Trustees before the final person is selected.

The job as Vice President of Academic Affairs is not a light one. Four deans and several other staff members report directly to the Vice President, who also works closely with the Vice President of Student Affairs, the Vice President for Administrative Services and the Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness to assure the College mission is fulfilled. Supporting and encouraging faculties in activities and research, working directly with the President, the Board of Trustees and heads of departments, and helping members of the college community adapt to changes are just a few of the Vice President’s other tasks.

Despite the minor turmoil in the upper ranks, students need not worry about being overly affected by the events.

Dr. Jose A. Adames (l), former VP of academic affairs before the appointment of Thomas Jewell.
 Stanford, Harvard... Oh and Yes, Bergen, Too, Has a TED X License

Jessica Lozano
Staff Writer

Have an idea that you are passionate about? Imagine that once you express your idea, it is seen by millions of viewers online on a popular website. This is what TED, which stands for Technology, Entertainment, Design is all about.

“Great conference of thought,” Ellen Feig, Assistant Professor of English, says about TED. It is a nonprofit organization dedicated to ideas that they believe are worth spreading.

TED began as a conference in 1984. Since then, they have held two TED Conferences in Long Beach and Palm Springs, as well as the TED Global Conference in Edinburgh, United Kingdom. TED includes the Open Translation Project, TED Conversations, the inspiring TED Fellows, the TED programs, the annual TED Prize, and the famous, award winning TED Talks video site on ted.com.

The idea to use TED at Bergen came about with professor Ellen Feig. Two years ago, TED began the TED Education Board and invited about two thousand educators to join, and she was one of them. However, TED decided the Education Board did not fit with the TED talk videos, feeling it was too much about policy.

Feig approached TED about doing a TEDx event at Bergen. She brought the idea up to the administration, doing a TEDx event at Bergen. She continued with saying that if someone wants to speak, they just have to be the speakers, to be the experts. They have the passion, they can do a talk, which is about fifteen minutes and should involve some form of technology, from slides to music and so on. No one will talk.

The Center for Peace, Justice and Reconciliation (CPJR), Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) and the President’s office will all work on this. Bergen is one of only twenty schools in the country to have a TEDx license. Other schools include Stanford and Harvard. As Professor Feig said, “It definitely helps the prestige, and with a community college that’s so important because sometimes the image can be not what you want it to be.”

Bergen Community College looks to get speakers from within the school itself, from staff, faculty and the students. However, Professor Feig fears that “based on other TED license events, that they’re not experts or that TED Talks have these famous people,” and no one will talk.

The intent of this event is to have all of the BCC community to be the speakers, to be the experts. She continued with saying that if someone wants to speak, they just have to be passionate about them speaking about. They don’t have to be an expert or famous in the field. They have the passion, they can do a talk, which is about fifteen minutes and should involve some form of technology, from slides to music and so on.

Have an idea that you are passionate about? Imagine that once you express your idea, it is seen by millions of viewers online on a popular website. This is what TED, which stands for Technology, Entertainment, Design is all about.

“The reason Bergen had to get a license is because of the TED logo. With a TED license, “all the materials that comes underneath it, the press releases and the support of the TED staff, is incredibly valuable” said Professor Feig.

Once anyone has a license to do a talk, they agree to be a representative of TED. Speakers are not paid, which is an important TED rule. So, it was important for the college to be under this framework.

After the Talks, which are videotaped, the speaker has the right to agree to allow the video to be uploaded on the TED website. This is a great forum for exposing an idea, organizations or something you are passionate about on a website with three million viewers. Like Feig said, it is “priceless.”

So, if anyone is interested in doing a TED Talk, or just watch one in person, be present for the 2-day event in March 2013 that has been set for Bergen. You will be sure to learn very much from your fellow students and faculty members.

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Brandon Reis
Staff Writer

During the course of this semester, I have had many great opportunities to do new and exciting things and interact with a seemingly infinite amount of like-minded individuals.

Since the rebirth of the School of Honors, now known as the Judith K. Winn School of Honors, the already immense amount of transfer opportunities has been growing with no end in sight. Naturally, as Honors students, this is excellent news, but we are always looking for ways to improve on our goals and to actualize our dreams.

One of the opportunities I had this fall led me to interview Mr. Bart Grachen, director of Community College Transfer Opportunity Program (CCTOP), and Mr. Grachen many have come to know Mr. Grachen over the last few years, as he has been generous enough to take time from his busy schedule to come to BCC for workshops, informal conversations, and also accommodate honors students on trips to NYU such as the one this past November.

It gives me great pleasure to present Mr. Grachen to you, all students, in the hopes that they will come to realize just how possible it is to transfer to a top college, and also to continue striving for success in spite of what obstacles life may place in our paths.

1. How long have NYU and Bergen been working together to help students succeed? Also, if you could please provide me with some information about yourself, such as how long you have been working with NYU; your role there as Director of CCTOP, and your experience working with Bergen Honor Students thus far.

Grachen: “Bergen was one of CCTOP’s charter schools. I’m sure we had accepted BCC students prior to the program and have worked at NYU since January 2008; prior to that, however, I had also worked with Bergen through admissions at another college, so my experience working with BCC students goes back quite a ways.”

2. What is different about BCC that sets it apart from other two-year schools that work with you? Basically, what is it about Bergen students that appeal to NYU?

Grachen: “CCTOP works with 13 partnership community colleges, all of which send us highly qualified and successful students. Each institution has its own focus and priorities; some have a primary focus on transfer, some on vocational training, and some on continuing education. So, one of the great advantages that Bergen students hold in the process is that the transfer function has always been a strong priority for the institution, and the Transfer Counseling Office does a wonderful job. The students at Bergen are well prepared for transfer, and well informed on the transfer process. Honors students have an even further advantage in the process, to the extent that the certifications much more similar in design to the courses students will see at a four-year institution, with more extensive reading and writing assignments. As preparation, they provide an excellent basis from which to transfer. The Honors Program at Bergen also always have a great job of providing their students with access to the counseling and information needed to ease that process, an advantage over the students at the other colleges who are trying to do it on their own.”

3. If possible, could you provide me with any statistics relative to the acceptance rate of Bergen honor students that transfer to NYU, the graduation rate of NYU student that transferred from Bergen, etc.

Grachen: “Unfortunately, I don’t track who entered from an honor or a career and professional program, but I can tell you that Bergen has sent CCTOP nearly 100 students since the inception of the CCTOP partners over that time at 90% graduated, and 93% have recommender letter and who or who are currently enrolled. I can’t say for the University as a whole (I’m certain we’ve had plenty of BCC students transfer, while the acceptance rate is 65% than Steinhardt), but overall, they’re very successful students here. Admissions numbers are trickier for CCTOP, we have an extremely high acceptance rate, relative to the University or even Steinhardt generally, but that’s because there’s so much communication between my office and potential students, in an effort to make sure that they are prepared and competitive for the application process. It “fixes” the numbers for lack of a better term – students who are not competitive, are told so as early as possible, so that we can help improve their chances or so that we can find them other options.”

4. What does NYU look for in it’s prospective students? How does the Honor Students embody that?

Grachen: “Well-rounded, well-considered, students. We’re looking at a complete application, with an eye towards who you are, what you’ve accomplished, and really, where you’re headed. Students who are applying without a clear sense of self, or to what end, are at a disadvantage. Academics is an important component, where you are as a student now, and how you might perform going forward. We look at the transcripts, but your current standing is most important. Strong recommender letters, a well-written and thoughtful essay, and applicable experiences can all be strong helps in the process as well. Honors students are at a natural advantage; they have been well informed on the transfer process and components that students can expect to run into, including the admission process and financial aid, and they are often more involved in other things, so they are more likely to come to us.”

5. I understand that you will be visiting our campus in February for a financial aid and transfer essay workshop. Can you elaborate on what students can expect from this incredible opportunity?

Grachen: “I don’t know how incredible it will be but I know that the biggest concerns people have in this process, and not necessarily in this order, are the application and how to apply for aid and fill out the application essay and some tips on writing as it part of that process. The financial aid process isn’t specific to NYU necessarily, but is a general overview of the process and how it is translated to NYU. The application essay portion is to provide some guidance into what we’re looking for in an application essay and some tips on writing as it part of that process. For the financial aid process, there are financial aid officers who are specific to NYU, necessarily, but is a general overview of the financial aid process and components that students can expect to run into, including the admission process and financial aid, and they’re high-need, and they’re high-need, and they’re high-need, and they’re high-need. Many students feel that they can’t afford a place like NYU based on bad information or misinterpretations; the fact is that 60-65% of my students are Pell-eligible students, meaning they’re high-need, and they’re high-need, and they’re high-need. Financial literacy is an important aspect to transfer as well. My goal with the workshops is to help students enter the transfer process, armed with the necessary information to succeed, not just to transfer.”

Campus Works makes Financial Aid Efficient

James Falero
Staff Writer

Are you a student receiving financial aid? Do you have waiting on lines that seem to stretch on forever - especially if you have only one question you need answered? Well, an effort to eliminate that hassle has been pushed. Bergen Community College’s financial aid offices are now in coalition with Campus Works, a top combination of business acumen, higher education expertise, technical know-how and professional planning bundled into a single IT professional” as it reads on their website.

Campus Works have been around since 1999 and will put their technologically savvy professionals into action. Their plan to assess, work with, and improve the financial aid office’s computer software and technology will include a number of ideas.

This is what will you have to rummage through old mail to find a letter for your FAFSA, financial aid services before scanning, sending, and saving letters onto your Web Advisor account. This may eliminate the discomfort one feels about discussing their fiscal situations in a tight financial aid office, like the one on the Paramus campus. Book vouchers will also be omitted and sent to your e-mail address. "Campus Works is writing recommendations," says Jennifer Reyes, the head of the Financial Aid Office. The main objective of Campus Works is simple: shorten the line as much as possible. With only two windows open and a heard of students who need questions answered, a remedy is definitely needed.

Prerecorded messages will be available when calling down the financial aid office to assist you in any way. The services of Campus Works were approved to be provided at all Bergen Community College campuses on November 13, 2012 and the contract extends for a 19 month period; ending June 30, 2014, with a renewal period. These services will run the college approximately $1,299,000 dollars.

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Brandon Reis
Staff Writer

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**Letters from SGA President**

**Margarita Valdez**  
**SGA President**

Hi Fellow students,  

This year has been full of challenges, which the Student Government Association turned into opportunities. We saw many events in which everyone worked as a team in order to make our college community a better place for our students.  

This is why we are proud to say that Bergen Community College is more than an institution where folks go to study; BCC is a diverse family; from continuing education students to fresh-out-of-high-school freshmen, we all came together and this was quite apparent after Hurricane Sandy hit our coast.

So many members of our community lost everything. As a result, BCC started the program titled “Help Bergen Heal.” The SGA, along with the support from volunteers, organized a virtual supply drive through GiveGrid.

Over forty people came along to assist the SGA in moving food and supplies to those in need. Members, administrators, faculty and staff made a huge difference, and we have to give immense gratitude for the immense support.

Even the outside community decided to help us out: Wal-Mart and Lowe’s donated gift cards that students used to purchase supplies for the virtual “supermarket.” Over 45 families from all over New Jersey attended this event and received the items that they needed to recover and support their families. We feel more than grateful for the support that BCC received.

BCC is well known not only for its great faculty and staff, but for its students as well. The virtual “supermarket” was successful because of those who donated and the efforts of many hours to have everything ready for the event in less than a week. The attitudes of the students; they are young leaders who are ready for the event in less than an hour.

The hurricane relief is not over yet; therefore, if you or anyone you know is in need of supplies, please stop by our office and let us know about your necessities.

The club has now concluded, and we feel that a club that started would be a great club, but that it is important that we continue with the same level of importance in the future.

The Newtown warning signs were shown and ignored. The blind eye we turn to those who are clearly distinct from us. Knowledge, however, is the key to understanding why acts of violence occur.

As of now, the answers aren’t clear, and they likely won’t be for some time. What is known is that Lanza killed his mother at their home, took her car, drove to Sandy Hook Elementary and proceeded to kill six adults and twenty children. He then turned the gun to himself as police entered the building.

As we’re trying to understand what would lead someone to cause such violence, the first question that should always be asked is “why was this the moment for stricter gun laws?” However, is that the answer?

The guns law we have now stopped Adam Lanza from being a gun enthusiast? I would hope so. However, we should still allow citizens to own a weapon as long as they have the necessary qualifications. No, Nancy Lanza and Adam didn’t have a chance or had at least a couple of weapons in her home.

We don’t kill people, people kill people. And as much as this phrase has been shunned in recent years, the truth is that we all remain a part of this. The mother, the father, the brother, mother, son, sister, wife, yet; therefore, if you or anyone you know is in pain, please tell us that we can help you.

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Setting the Standard for the 21st Century Student

Brandon Reis
Staff Writer

Philanthropy is something most often associated with the actions of successful, established individuals—those who have spent a lifetime working towards gaining the credibility, influence, and financial means necessary to give back to their communities.

Here at Bergen, The BCC Foundation is one body whose ultimate goal is to raise funds in an effort to support the ever-increasing financial needs of students through scholarships, faculty and staff development, and other types of programs that benefit its cause. This is done through the foundation’s hard work and excellent staff reaching out to the local community and BCC alumni to raise these funds.

The result of these endeavors has been incredible, growing exponentially throughout the years, with the current availability of student scholarships amounting to over $350,000 in total. As mentioned, the foundation is accustomed to seeking out funds from local businesses, alumni and other members of the community, but it is the recent actions of one Bergen student that have begun spark an idea that is beginning to change the way students give back.

Steven Chung, current BCC student and Bergen Honors Association President for the 2012 fall semester, was the first non-alumnus-student to ever make a donation towards the BCC Foundation this semester. His generous donation of $1,000 will be available in the fall semester of 2012 and be awarded to one BCC Honors student.

When asked about the significance of Steven’s donation and what it means for the future of Bergen, Laurie Francisc, the BCC Foundation’s Director, was both excited and inspired. “We need more students like Steven to rise to the occasion. He has done the unexpected, and others must now follow the trend. It is not the dollar amount given by the individual, however, but the power behind the act of giving from the student body as a whole. If every student gives even $1, that’s over $17,000!”

In a society that, for the most part, has labeled our generation as being misled and mistaken, it is essential to ensure the realization that philanthropy can begin during your college years.

Is the Star Ranking System Beneficial to Clubs?

Steven Chung
Honors Association President

Many students with different backgrounds attend Bergen Community College striving to complete their academic goals. As a result, Bergen Community College is highly regarded as an academic institution with an ample amount of diversity. However, within the college’s Student Life, a very small portion of the total student body is actually involved. Although student involvement typically requires commitment and time, evident and consistent demonstration of student leadership is a must, especially from the Student Government Association.

On September 25th, 2012, the SGA held a House of Representatives Meeting consisting of a brief agenda discussing several new elements regarding to student club involvement including a new system that would determine a club’s level of activity known as the ‘Star Ranking System’ for the Fall ‘12 semester.

As President of the Honors Association for this semester, I was annoyed by SGA’s new system that was brought into effect, without any prior notifications to students, nearly three weeks after the beginning of this semester. It was disappointing because the conditions that this new system composed of affected many student clubs with the point system incentives for attending Board of Trustees and House of Representatives Meeting.

In addition to that, I felt as if injustice was served because clubs accumulating an amount of points, lower than the Star Ranking standard, would essentially jeopardize their club’s reputation and financial budget in the future with SGA. On top of that, what’s the reward if your club does well within this system, a pat on the back? At times, I even felt that student involvement was increasing more because of the points and not because of genuine interest for these matters.

Although these meetings presented vital information that all students should hear, I also questioned another aspect in these matters: the ‘power behind the act of giving from the student body as a whole. If every student gives even $1, that’s over $17,000!”

In a society that, for the most part, has labeled our generation as being misled and mistaken, it is essential to ensure the realization that philanthropy can begin during your college years.

I recently met with Nestor Melendez, Interim Assistant Dean of Student Life & Judicial Affairs, on December 6th, 2012, to discuss with him about these new policies and concerns including, the ‘Star Ranking System’. During our conversation, Melendez conveyed the message that the system is not to promote and determine club activity. However, I questioned him when such policies would be established and not changed again in the event of current SGA leaders leaving Bergen Community College, a point that I still believe that SGA has collectively distorted the true definition of volunteering to an extent.

The beauty of Bergen is that we are all different, and it is our diversity that sets us apart from the norm. With an uncertain outlook on the future and a recent natural disaster that has shaken the community, a generation that gives and serves without question is needed more than ever, and it must be realized that it is up to you to instill the values and habits that will be passed on to future generations.
Imagine a society in which no one trusted each other. When there is a huge divide in society between really wealthy citizens and really impoverished citizens, the trust between the citizens themselves lowers, leading to high homicide rates. The word “wealth” means an abundance of valuable possessions or money. Wealth often gets confused with income, but there’s an important distinction between the two. Income refers to a flow of money (per hour, per week or per year); wealth is a collection of assets (such as stocks, bonds, and other investments which are more likely to have their value damaged than income). Wealth inequality refers to the unequal distribution of financial assets among residents of the United States. Conversely, the top 20% of Americans have little or no wealth. In fact, some even have negative wealth because their debt outweighs their assets. This isn’t to say that they’re unemployed; it just means they either don’t own a house or what they owe on the house is more than what the house is worth. There’s a victimization syndrome that gives people a false sense of how much they’re worth, which can cause them to not be able to afford to improve or learn new skills to increase their productivity. Essentially, the wealthy have greater financial opportunities. For example, they make money from stock markets and mutual funds and reinvest the profits. The wealthy strategically organize their money so that it will produce profit. Wealthy people are more likely to allocate their money to financial assets such as stocks, bonds, and other investments which hold the possibility of capital appreciation.

Those who are not wealthy are more likely to have their money in savings accounts and home ownership, both of which take a huge hit when inflation occurs. Ultimately, this means that more people have a false sense of how much they’re being compensated for their time and work. Increasing the number of government grants for college students would help more people attend college and make sure that they don’t graduate with a huge amount of debt. Reducing the worry of debt would also focus more of their efforts on building assets. The greatest tool of all to combat wealth inequality is by educating yourself to an extent on economics. Making higher education more accessible would positively affect the country’s literacy rate and increase jobs, and bringing more production to buildings. The greatest tool of all to combat wealth inequality is by educating yourself to an extent on economics. Making higher education more accessible would positively affect the country’s literacy rate and increase jobs, and bringing more production to buildings. The greatest tool of all to combat wealth inequality is by educating yourself to an extent on economics. Making higher education more accessible would positively affect the country’s literacy rate and increase jobs, and bringing more production to buildings.
What Goals Have You Accomplished This Semester/ Year?

Peter Lagomarsino, Photography

“I accomplished three of my goals that were making new friends and learning a new language that is sign language and challenging myself by learning more about what I can do as a student and learn more about myself.”

Terrence Wynter, Graphic Design

“The goals I’ve accomplished are managing my time with school and work. I also accomplished on passing my test and handing in assignments on time. I hope my commitment to graduation will help me reach my career.”

Alejandra Guarin, Psychology

“I have accomplished staying in school, working and raising a newborn without failing any of my classes. With the help of my teachers I have been able to be a good student, a good worker, and a good mom. I have learned ways to be a better person in general. I feel extremely happy with myself for staying in school and proving that no obstacle is big enough to keep you from achieving your goal.”

Kristy Ramos, Associates in Science

“This semester I have learned how to balance my time and how to be organized. I became the secretary of the Dance Club and the Women’s Club. With this position I learned many skills. These skills have helped me in my everyday life and have also built my organization skills.”

Seungkyu Kook, Music Education

“As an international student, I was kind of worried to take college classes, but I worked really hard and was able to manage this semester. I am glad and satisfied.”

Terrence Wynter, Graphic Design

“The goals I’ve accomplished are managing my time with school and work. I also accomplished on passing my test and handing in assignments on time. I hope my commitment to graduation will help me reach my career.”

Mallory Pierre, Liberal Arts and Biology

“This semester I accomplished a few important goals. I completed all my requirements to get into my dental hygiene program. I got a promotion at work as a pharmacy technician and my grades this semester have been up to par. Overall I accomplished all my short term goals during this semester and I feel proud.”

Emmanuel Rodriguez, Liberal Arts

“I learned a lot about myself this semester. I met a lot of interesting people. This semester I have expanded my horizon. My next goal is to change the world.”

Michael Hanna, Professional Studies, General

“This semester I have been able to accomplish a great deal of goals. I became a senator for Student Government Association as well as president of the Meadowlands campus. While doing this I have kept my 4.0 GPA and have been able to work an average of 20 hours a week at Student Services in the Meadowlands. While doing all that I have almost completed my music CD.”

Shuain Jin, Business Administration

“The first goal that I have accomplished this semester is getting a job, although it is minimum wage, it is still a good experience and it helped me accomplish my second goal, which is getting a SSN (social security number). As an international student, it is hard to get one. I am also happy about new friends in my classes. They are very nice and helpful. I am also getting familiar with college life.”

Senra Sulejmanoska, Liberal Arts, Psychology

“What I have accomplished this semester at Bergen Community College is becoming an excellent student, having good grades and concentrating on school and college life. In addition I have also set a good example for my younger siblings, which means the world to me. I have become more open to communicating with my professor.”
Xenophile is not new to the music scene but yet newly reconceived to create the very talented band they are today. Through the struggles, Xenophile came out even stronger then ever with members Derrick Schneider (lead vocals), Matt Pavlik (bass), Anthony Blanco (bassist), Leart Begolli (guitarist/backing vocals), and Ron Iglesias (guitarist/backing vocals). They are currently based out of Fairview, New Jersey, but Xenophile's members are from all around the New Jersey area. Xenophile is a progressive thrash metal band highly influenced from classical guitar, classic rock, heavy metal, and 80's hair metal.

The band Xenophile has many strengths. Foremost being that all the members have been professionally trained in their field of music and have much experience with performing and recording. They also have a few connections with major labels and popular bands. They are also all full time students while holding down jobs; and yet they always find time to hold consistent practices, while playing shows and recording their music, along with promoting and networking with their fans.

Some bands they are inspired and influenced by are Exodus, Overkill, Megadeth, Slayer, Anthrax, Testament, Rush, Dream Theater, Deep Purple, Led Zeppelin, Dark Angel, and Van Halen. Their music is technical and dynamic in both the structural and musical sense. With well thought-out time signature changes and tempo fluctuations, they bring original creativity to the new thrash generation. They also try to bring diversity to their music through adding melodic verses and harmonies along with more foreign scales and influences to their songs.

Currently the band has been focusing on putting on shows and preparing to record and release a full length album. They presently have five completed originals and in the works of more. They have an upcoming show on Saturday, January 26th at the Foxhole Lounge VFW 6259, 15 Locust Ave. Berkeley Heights, NJ 07922. Tickets are $10 and doors open at 12:30 p.m. This is followed by a second show on Sunday February 26th in Garwood New Jersey. Further details will be released on their facebook page at www.facebook.com/XenophileNJ along with other updates, pictures, and videos. They also have a YouTube channel with videos from their shows at www.youtube.com/XenophileNJ. This Band is definitely worth checking out even if that genre is not for you, maybe they can sway your taste with their captivating talent.

Developers from Treyarch incorporated futuristic warfare in 2025, as well as missions from the 1970’s. They have also added characters that players know and gave it different endings depending on the player’s choices and successes in missions throughout the game. The campaign alternates between the year 2025 and the 1970s to 1980s. David Mason, AKA “Section”, is the son of Alex Mason, protagonist of the first Black Ops. Section leads a team called JSOC; their main focus is to stop a Cold War between the U.S and China, influenced by the infamous narcotics distributor Raul Menendez. Due to poor choices made by Frank Woods, partner of Alex Mason in the 1970 era, Raul Menendez wants revenge against the U.S for killing his sister, the only family he had left.

With overwhelming political influence and over a billion followers, the 2025 JSOC must be careful with how they take Menendez out, not wanting to cause nuclear warfare and it is up to Section and his team to stop him with the help from an old, crippled Frank Woods and his war stories.

The gameplay is the same apart from the strategic positioning of the drones and robots that the player must control. There is also vehicle driving, which is a nice addition to getting shot all the time. The arsenal of futuristic weapons is pleasant, innovative and a nice change from the good old AK47. Overall, Black Ops II has a very good storyline with some changes to the common COD, but it still includes as missions when you play online.
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15 Things You Didn’t Know About the Holidays

JeongYeon Chika Kim
Staff Writer

It’s the most wonderful time of the year with parties for hosting, marshmallows for toasting, and caroling out in the snow. But we all know that the most important part of the holidays are the presents. Our gift to you this year is knowledge in the form of 15 things you probably didn’t know about the holidays. Enjoy!

1. It’s clear Americans love to shop, especially during the holidays. Christmas purchases account for a whopping 1/6 of all annual retail sales in the United States.

2. America’s biggest shopping day, Black Friday, has made marks in other parts of the world. Countries like Romania, and United Arab Emirates are also busting out big sales on the fourth Friday of November.

3. Have you counted all the gifts in the song “12 Days of Christmas”? If you count right, there should be 364 gifts total, one for each day of the year. In reality, the 364 gifts would cost you almost $110,000.

4. Poor Rudolph. He was not only bullied, but he also had a sickness. According to Norwegian scientists, Rudolph has a red nose because of a parasitic infection of his respiratory system.

5. In fact, the modern image of North Pole really exists in Alaska. People of the small town volunteer to reply to each of the hundreds of thousands of letters they receive from children all over the world.

6. Throw the image of the obesity-causing Santa away because Saint Nick was actually skinny, strict, andTurkish.

7. In fact, the modern image of Santa, with the white beard and the red suit, was made by Coca-Cola in the 1930s. Another beloved Christmas icon, Rudolph, was also first an advertising gimmick created by the department store Montgomery Ward in 1939.

8. If Santa did really deliver presents, he would have to travel at 650 miles per second, three times faster than the speed of sound.

9. Many of our beloved Christmas songs are written by Jews. These include The Christmas Song (Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire), Holly Jolly Christmas, I’ll Be Home For Christmas, Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer, Santa Claus is Coming to Town, Silver Bells, There’s No Place Like Home for the Holidays, White Christmas, Winter Wonderland, Jingle Bell Rock, and Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas.

10. Hamanikah isn’t the only Jewish Christmas. While Christmas is arguably the biggest Christian holiday, Hamanikah is relatively minor to the Jewish religion. The major Jewish holidays are Yom Kippur, Rosh Hashana, Sukot, and Passover.

11. Kwanzaa was made in 1966 by Maulana Karenga, a major figure in the Black Power movement. He created the holiday as a necessary minimum set of principles by which Black people must live in order to begin to rescue and reconstruct our history and lives.” Kwanzaa is an African Canadian, and African-American celebration, and is not celebrated in Africa.

12. If Santa eats 2 bites of a cookie, and 1 sip of milk left for him on Christmas Eve, he will eat 336,150,386 cookies (which is about 1,443 elephants), and drink 94,542,296 glasses of milk (equivalent to about 9 Olympic size swimming pool) by the end of the night. To burn all those calories, he would have to run 14,763,343 marathons.

13. I think we have a winner for the next diabetes-awareness spokesperson.

14. Santa was ranked as the richest character in Fictional Forbes 15 in 2002, and 2005. He was called out for blocking elves from unionizing and forcing them to work in hazardous working conditions.

15. Rent-a-Santas are hired every year. But these Santas don’t immediately jump into the red suit. They have to undergo training on how to deal with rowdy children, and what not to eat having bad breath. You should think twice before you have your kid sit on Santa’s lap.

And remember, the holidays are not just about giving, but also about being with the ones you love. 

Penny Pinching presents

Anne Berlin
Staff Writer

Some of the most stressful times can be during the dreaded yet exciting time of year, that is the holiday season. When buying presents is the only thing that fills your mind, this could be a problem. According to The College of Admissions. (Hepburn Hall, Room 207).
One of the most popular seasons to showcase your style is winter. Learn to layer up or transition your fall wear into warm wear! The winter trends for this season include clothes that are fashionable, but functional too.

-Jamie Kurtz  Photo Editor

**TOPS**
It's the season to cuddle up with your favorite fuzzy sweaters. Knit is the fabric to be wearing this time of year and fun prints are always a must! Whether it’s zig zags, plaid, or stripes, these are always a good option to pair with your favorite pair of jeans or classic leggings. But if you are not ready to put away your summer or fall shirts, try wearing it with a nice cardigan. This way, you can still wear your favorite shirts, but stay warm at the same time.

**Accessories**
To add flair to an ordinary outfit, add a printed scarf or knit hat. These are easy and cheap accessories that keep you toasty while looking good at the same time.

**Pants**
It might be too cold to wear shorts or skirts, but try layering leggings underneath. You don’t have to stick to the usual black either. Try a tribal print or maybe a subtle animal print leggings. Pair that with a nice oversized sweater and boots and you have an outfit ready for class or to go out. Lastly, you cannot forget classic jeans. Jeans go with everything, and can be dressed down with a henley or dressed up with a blazer.

**Jackets**
One type of jacket that has become increasingly popular is the puffer jacket. To be more specific, Uniqlo's ultra light down jackets are a hit right now. They are super light, comfortable, and keep you warm in any scenario. In addition, peacoats are also in! This coat is easier to dress up and wear for a night out. For an edgier look, the classic leather jacket never goes out of style. Pair it with a sweater underneath and you’re set!

**Do’s and Don’ts: What is Appropriate Clothing for Class**

Anne Berlin  Staff Writer

All of my years in school I was forced to wear a uniform, the worst of those years being in high school, when my interest in fashion really started to blossom. Attending a school where I was strangled by a dress code that didn’t even let me wear my own shoes was hard to deal with for four years. These rules, of course, did not stop me from occasionally, (or always), breaking them. College was where I was strangled by a dress code. All of my years in school I was forced to wear a uniform, the worst of those years being in high school, when my interest in fashion really started to blossom. Attending a school where I was strangled by a dress code that didn’t even let me wear my own shoes was hard to deal with for four years. These rules, of course, did not stop me from occasionally, (or always), breaking them. College was where I was strangled by a dress code.

My first week or two into classes I quickly realized that not everyone felt the same. I spent all of summer trying to get a tan and tone up my flab. Every time I went to the beach I would drool over those perfect bodies. I knew however, that when I went to the beach that I would see those things; so I was fully prepared to deal with them. I was not prepared however to deal with it in class. Once I saw a girl wearing a bandeau “top” and an open vest over it. I’m sorry but I don’t want to see anyone’s perfectly toned body when I have already mentally prepared myself to gain the “freshman 15.”

Midriff baring tops in class should never be the first thing you pick out of your closet and especially not a bathing suit top. The only concentration going on in the class will be everyone concentrating on your outfit and away from the teacher, which is rude as well as inappropriate. The same thing goes for bootie shorts. I am guilty sometimes of wearing shorts that might be slightly too short, but never to class. When I come to school it is to learn and I know I would not want to be staring at parts of people’s bodies that should be covered and so I would never do that to someone else.

It’s hard to know when exactly to draw the line when it comes to dressing for class. The best rule for me is, if I can’t wear it in a church or in front of my crazy protective father then I definitely should not be wearing it to class.

Dressing for class everyday can become extremely stressful especially for us girls and that is why every closet should have seven basic pieces, which can make numerous outfits. My top seven articles of clothing are a white button-up blouse, and A-line skirt, a perfect pair of jeans, a little black dress, leather jacket, a black blazer, and finally a scarf. If you are looking for one more piece to bring these different bits together, a skinny brown belt is perfect. There is no rhyme or reason to how these basics should be composed. I will leave my readers with two simple rules for putting any outfit together. Layer, layer, layer, and always think outside the box.

**Jenny Jaramillo**  
Wears: Knit sweater: $50 Old Navy  
Knit Scarf: $15 Forever 21  
Shoes: $15 Forever 21

**Jeremy Wojciechowski**  
Wears: Knit sweater: $30 Old Navy  
Knit Scarf: $8.80 Forever 21  
Jacket: H & M  
Plaid Shirt: $20 Khols  
Jacket: $60 UNIQLO  
Pants: Plaid Pant: Forever 21

**Paula Acero**  
Wears: Knit sweater: $30 Old Navy  
Knit Scarf: $8.80 Forever 21  
Jacket: H & M  
Plaid Shirt: $20 Khols  
Jacket: $60 UNIQLO  
Pants: Plaid Pant: Forever 21  
Jacket: H & M  
Plaid Shirt: $20 Khols  
Jacket: $60 UNIQLO  
Pants: Plaid Pant: Forever 21

**Keion Best**  
Wears: Knit sweater: $30 Old Navy  
Knit Scarf: $15 Forever 21  
Shoes: $15 Forever 21

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S T. T H O M A S A Q U I N A S C O L L E G E
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We're young and college is the perfect time for us to explore our sexuality. Whether you're in a relationship or just having casual sex, it's important to experiment and get to know yourself a little better. Here are some ideas that are sure to spice up your sex life and also help you learn more about yourself.

Take it outside the bedroom: Sex shouldn't be restricted to just one room in your place. Try starting somewhere else like the kitchen or laundry room. You can always bring it back to the bedroom if you're not comfortable, but initiating somewhere unusual is bound to add some excitement.

Try a new position: We've all heard of missionary but have you ever tried reverse cowgirl or doggy style? There are plenty of books and helpful information on the internet about different sex positions. The possibilities are endless and your partner will end up thanking you later.

Role playing: Ladies, have you ever wanted to be a naughty nurse or a bad schoolgirl? Guys, have you ever wanted to be a police officer or the big CEO of your own company? Well in the bedroom, there are no rules and you can be whatever you want. Role-playing is a great idea for couples to come out of their shell and act out a fantasy they've had in mind.

Introduce sex toys: Sex toys are a great way to add something extra in the bedroom. To start off, have a talk with your partner and ask what they'd be open to. If you can't decide or need some ideas, visit a sex shop. Handcuffs and blindfolds are great for beginners and will lead to a night that'd be hard to forget!

Keep in mind that while sex should be fun and pleasurable, it should also be safe. Don't forget to use a condom. Well, what are you waiting for, get to it!

Erica Diaz
Staff Writer

Experimentation and Exploration: Spice Up Your Sex Life

When you are in college, dating is one of the main components in figuring out who you are and what you want in a companion. Unfortunately, because the stigma of being a "broke college student" is true, dating can be hard when you only have so much to spend. However, it doesn't have to be a hardship, as there are many fun ideas that won't break your piggy bank.

1. Make dinner. By dinner, that doesn't mean making ramen and chips. Actually go online and look up a recipe for something. Make a night out of it and take the time to go to the supermarket and get the ingredients. It's much more affordable to make a full meal, rather than going out to eat. Rent a movie for after dessert, and you're set for the night.

2. Venture into New York City. The city offers so much, and many times, for next to nothing at all. Go take a walk in Central Park, or bask in the glow of the Christmas tree at Rockefeller Center. There is an endless amount of museums that offer students discounts or have days on which admission is free.

3. Check out what's going on at BCC. There is a long list of events you can attend, sponsored by the school. From plays to trips, these will run you next to nothing and still offer a fun night out. Many don't know, but the Buehler Observatory is open for public viewing on the weekends. Looking at the stars with your loved one is a romantic and free way to enjoy each other's company.

4. If you're of age, attend a happy hour or a restaurant with late night specials. Most offer cheap deals on drinks and food during select hours. In addition, try going to a winery. Most offer free wine tastings, or charge very little for them. Make sure to always drink responsibly.

Antonella Sielicki
Features Editor

Dating on the Dime: 4 Tips for Cheap Outings
How to Ace an Interview

Antonella Sielicki
Features Editor

As a college student, it’s inevitable that at one point or another, you will have to be in some kind of interview. Whether it’s for a college transfer or a new job, these interviews will be the deciding factor for whether or not you get selected for that position.

Even outside of interviews, making a good first impression is always key. When going, make sure to dress the part and look presentable. You can never be overdressed, but you can be underdressed, and that reflects badly on yourself. Look as though you are about to be hired right away and can start on the spot. When first walking in, give them a firm handshake, while maintaining eye contact. This shows you have confidence and a good attitude.

Next, know your subject and know it well. Make sure you have done your research about the organization, job, school, whatever it may be. When you show you have already put in the time and effort, you are giving yourself a leg up in the competition. This shows you are serious about it and have put in the time already.

Finally, show curiosity and interest during the interview. Don’t be afraid to ask the interviewer questions and show them you actually care about the answer to it. Being curious can never be a bad thing. With that, be yourself too. Be someone that they want to know more about and what you will bring to the table. Don’t be nervous, just be yourself.

Making a good first impression is something you can carry for the rest of your life. It will ultimately help you become successful, and be a key tool in networking later on in a career. Think of every interview as practice, or even have a family member or friend practice with you. In time, it will get easier and you’ll have more open doors of opportunities waiting for you.

Steps and Strategies for a Successful Transfer

Emanuele Calianno
Staff Writer

1. Talk to a transfer counselor. Set up an appointment, ASAP. This first step is essential. The counselor will help you choose classes and activities that suit your transfer plans, give you information on the colleges you’re looking at, and walk you through the steps of filling out applications.

2. Get into Service Learning/Co-Op. These internships set up by BCC, in coordination with outside groups, are designed to give you hands-on experience in a profession related to your major/area of study.

3. Avoid winter sessions. These are fine for a professional degree, but colleges will not accept them. They’re stressful and cover too much in little time. It’s already a lot that summer courses are accepted, so don’t expect any school to think you learned 4 months worth of material in 3 weeks.

4. Get involved! BCC is overflowing with clubs, organizations, contests, etc. These activities are generally light and pleasant, but can offer a lot to a student and will make any transcript more appealing. Joined Biology club? Bonus. Student Government? Bonus. Wrote for The Torch? Triple bonus.

5. Get a campus job. You can find employment in every department at BCC from the library, to the gym, to the tutoring center and the countless offices. Most jobs are assigned as a form of financial aid (federal work study), but there are several jobs around campus that don’t require eligibility to FWS. The jobs are located on campus and the hours (up to 20 a week) are fitted around your classes, eliminating the extra car travel and schedule conflict between school and work. This is a great way to earn money, gain both academic and work experience, and it looks great on both a transcript and professional resume.

6. To set up an appointment with a transfer counselor or learn more about any of these programs, you can visit the Center of Student Success (located in Room A-125 of the Pitkin Building).
Most bands usually just comply with one generic type of sound, however local band Sector Zero doesn’t follow that stereotype. Sector Zero was formed in Garfield, New Jersey in 2009, with founding members Anthony Spizziro (drummer/vocalist), David Torres (bassist/vocalist) and former guitarist Anthony Leuzzi. They played their first show at the Hungarian Legion in Garfield, New Jersey in late 2010.

The band has been getting very mixed reactions from local audiences. While they do play hardcore metal, they add more melody into their songs. Sector Zero has been compared to a variety of bands such as Voivod and Slipknot.

The band went through a variety of genres throughout their existence. They started out in thrash metal, and then they went through a stage with progressive metal. Now, they don’t put any type of label on their band because they consider their music as simply heavy metal. “We wanted to play thrash, but whatever came out of our instruments was progressive metal,” said David on how much the band’s music has changed. They have varied influences, such as Metallica, The Black Keys, Foo Fighters, Whitechapel and Job for a Cowboy.

Most of the band’s songs are written by drummer and vocalist Anthony Spizziro. He used to get influences from movies he has seen and books he has read, but now he writes mostly from personal experiences. Anthony explained how, “It’s much harder to write about personal stuff, than it is to write about fictional stuff.”

After their former guitarist left, the band found themselves in a rut. Anthony and David were looking for a new guitarist, when they came across guitarist Kevin Chapillequin on Facebook. Through Kevin, they found Brandon Geata, who also plays guitar. Now, that the band has two new guitarists, their up and running once again.

They are mainly focusing on releasing songs through their Facebook and YouTube pages, but they hope to produce an EP in the future.

Matt DeRenzo
Staff Writer

Emanuele Calianno
Staff Writer

REM- It’s The End of the World as we Know It (and I feel fine)

1. A nostalgic look back at the insanity of 20th century pop culture, and some kick ass Rickenbacker guitars to bring it home.

Black Sabbath- Black Sabbath

3. Even the most hardcore metalheads agree that this 1969 hit is scarier than anything every written, filled with gloom, desperation and Satanic punishment.

Johnny Cash- The Man Comes Around

4. An apocalyptic song based on a biblical passage, written by he who invented the concept of pessimism.

Los Del Rio- La Macarena

6. How can you go end it all without doing pop’s greatest dance one more time? C’mon, arms out, flip them, cross them... you know the steps. And remember: lots of booty shaking.

Sirius- There is a Light That Never Goes Out

7. I have a “NO STAIRWAY” rule for my soundtracks. So this is the next best thing... but it’s depressed bluesy Zeppelin all the same.

Beatles- The End

9. “In the end, the love you make is equal to the love you take” Leave it to the Fab Four to make the apocalypse sound romantic.

PSY- Gangnam Style

10. Our last spin around the sun couldn’t go without an absurdly catchy hit. So we went all out and produced a song that would effectively destroy thousands of years of civilization and culture. I was disappointed at first, that aliens were going to think that all we could come up with as a goodbye song was “Call Me Maybe”, but this is more than i ever dreamed of. This song is La Macarena, The telephone song, Mambo # 5, and “I’m sexy & know i” all put together. It is the death of intellectualism, of artistic expression, of moral value. It is the song you shamelessly blast in the car as you drive into a cliff as the meteorites hit earth. Cause if we’re going down, we’re doing it in style. Gangnam Style.
Gadgets: Stocking stuffers and last-minute gift ideas

J.P. Mercedes
Staff Writer

From the first computer and cell phones to modern day tablets and laptops, technology has evolved through the past twenty years at a rapid pace. In today’s society, the majority of the world cannot live without technology. It is in our daily lives constantly. Whether it is texting, emailing or just browsing the internet, technology is essential. We have laptops, home computers and tablets to give us all what we want from our personal interests, in the palm of our hands and in our disposals. Even when driving out of town, or to visit a place with friends that we don’t know well, we have a GPS, whether it is in our phones or an actual gadget, to help get there when we do not know the way.

Society uses technology today like it has not been used in the history of mankind. From the time Thomas Edison invented the first light bulb to the recent wave of smartphones, we have evolved.

Without technology, we would end up as a society stuck in the past. We would have to live how our ancestors in ancient times lived so many years ago without the use of technology today. Without technology, we could not have the power we know today.

John Raffaele
Staff Writer

My sociology teacher recently pitched a shockingly interesting question to our class: Could you survive a weekend without your cellphones or computers? The class then proceeded to collectively tense up at the thought of such a horrifying experience. Evidently, it is obvious that our generation is obsessed with the concept of technology and its various uses. But is this a healthy obsession or rather a social problem?

Social media is everywhere and almost unavoidable, but can a person have too much social media incorporated into their everyday lives? A British charity, entitled Anxiety UK, recently conducted a survey on the excessive use of social networking sites such as Twitter and Facebook. The survey concluded that social media would ultimately make you more anxious and less confident in normal everyday situations where social integration is required. 51% of the survey respondents claimed that their overall self-esteem and self-image was lower after spending a significant amount of time on a social networking site.

Other negative impacts that the respondents experienced were increases in confrontational behavior due to personal information being posted online, a strong need to constantly compare themselves to others, and feeling obligated or addicted to checking the various updates, statuses, and pictures that are on a constant and easily accessible feed online.

Many of us simply do not consider the possibility of technology negatively impacting our lives so it is unfortunate to learn that popular social networking sites do in fact affect its users in such socially debilitating ways. We, as a generation, need to ultimately understand and be aware of the “side effects” of social networking sites such as Twitter and Facebook. When you find yourself validating an aspect of your everyday life by how many likes it receives on Facebook, you have probably “overdosed.”

The camera has an internal battery, which is charged via USB for 2 hours of life and has a built-in mono microphone along with a port to add an external mic.

Video is captured in HD 720p and can be moved to any angle since it’s wireless.

Logitech has designed the camera to let users press a button to switch to the camera, giving your chatting partner a different angle.

The Broadcaster ($199.99) works with Mac video applications including QuickTime, Photo Booth, iMovie, Final Cut Pro or chatting with FaceTime, iChat or Skype.

Logitech also has a few cool high tech gadgets: Windows 8 friendly mice with the 1400 and 6200.

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You get three different-sized ear pieces to get the right fit along with an in-line microphone for cell phone use and most any portable electronic device.

The sound is decent and it makes a great handsfree choice.

Details: www.iFrogz.com

$9.99 in a big selection of colors.

4. TRAVEL POWER KIT AND DOCK

Bracketron’s Universal USB Travel Power Kit ($26) includes an Apple 30-pin and Micro USB connections 3-foot cable for charging just about any device on the go.

The cable can be connected to a computer or the included USB AC adapter for 2.1 Amp charging, which includes power hungry tablets.

A 12V car charging USB adapter is also included.

MetalDock ($18.91) is a contemporary-looking charging dock for the iPhone 4/4S, built with heavy-duty metal construction resulting in a lightweight and portable design.

It connects to any USB port for use alongside with its embedded 3-foot cable and works in landscape or portrait modes.

A company representative has emailed me that Dec. 12-17 everything on the Bracketron site is 40 percent off.

Details: wwwBracketron.com

In the portable electronic world, stocking stuffers are easy to find. Here are some for those last-minute holiday gifts on everyone’s list.

Details: www.bedolwhatsnext.com

1. ECO-FRIENDLY BEDOL WATER CLOCK

The clock features eco-friendly materials and is a portable alarm that is also waterproof in the event you feel like standing in a rain storm or showering with it.

Aside from telling time, the clock has an internal natural chemical reaction to keep it running indefinitely.

2. CHAT OR SCROLL WITH A MIC ISOLATING EARBUDS WITH ANGLED VIDEO CAMERA BEHIND THE SCENES

A natural chemical reaction between two of its internal metallic plates generate enough power to keep it running indefinitely.

Details: www.bedolwhatsnext.com

STOCKING STUFFERS

17

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4. TRAVEL POWER KIT AND DOCK

Bracketron’s Universal USB Travel Power Kit ($26) includes an Apple 30-pin and Micro USB connections 3-foot cable for charging just about any device on the go.

The cable can be connected to a computer or the included USB AC adapter for 2.1 Amp charging, which includes power hungry tablets.

A 12V car charging USB adapter is also included.

MetalDock ($18.91) is a contemporary-looking charging dock for the iPhone 4/4S, built with heavy-duty metal construction resulting in a lightweight and portable design.

It connects to any USB port for use alongside with its embedded 3-foot cable and works in landscape or portrait modes.

A company representative has emailed me that Dec. 12-17 everything on the Bracketron site is 40 percent off.

Details: wwwBracketron.com
Playstation All-Stars Challenges the Legendary “Super Smash Bros.” Series

David Ahn
Staff Writer

The “Super Smash Bros.” video game series has been one to dominate living rooms, parties, and social gatherings for the past decade. With iconic characters, excellent gameplay, and a complex fighting system that is easy enough for new players to pick up yet deep enough for the pros to explore, it is no surprise to see why this video game series is so popular.

However, Sony’s “Playstation All-Stars Battle Royale” is the first challenger to contest the dominance of the crossover fighting video game genre. Released on November 20, 2012, PS All-Stars has had Playstation 3 and Vita owners scrambling in stores for the chance to participate in this newfound brawler.

Developed by SuperBot Entertainment, it is clear that PS All-Stars draws heavily from facets of the Super Smash Bros. series. Thankfully, the game forms its own strong personal identity and while some may accuse PS All-Stars of being a “Super Smash copycat,” it manages to take interesting directions in how it contrasts.

The framework between PS All-Stars and Super Smash Bros. series is quite similar. Both games hold elements such as God of War mixed with the PSP game “Hades” has components of God of War and the “God of War” series, and even oldies such as Sir Daniel Fortesque from “MediEvil.”

The stages are dynamic and chaotic, each holding aspects of two games. For example, the stage “Hades” has components of God of War mixed with the PSP game “Patapon.”

Unfortunately, the single player modes of PS All-Stars tend to be repetitive, short, and contain no presentation. The game’s true strength lies within its multiplayer modes. This is where PS All-Stars truly shines and it is evident in its new cross-play system. Up to four players can duke it out on any map both locally and online with any permutation/combination of PS3 and Vita controllers. Do you want to play a match with two PS3 controllers, one Vita controller, and an AI-controlled bot? That’s not a problem. What about four Vita controllers? Three PS3 controllers and a person online? None of these are an issue and that’s a fantastic thumbs-up to the developers.

Another benefit is that all who purchase the PS3 version of the game get the Vita version absolutely free. The online system is smooth, simple, and functional. One of Super Smash Bros.’ weaknesses included that online fighting was troublesome, buggy, and generally a terrible experience. PS All-Stars experiences no such problems and makes online play accessible, easy, and most importantly, enjoyable.

Another of the game’s strengths is that it continues to grow and evolve in the form of downloadable content. New characters periodically with the first two being Kat from “Gravity Rush” and Emmett Graves from “Starhawk.” If a character seems overpowered or underpowered, patches can make adjustments and get rid of bugs or glitches not detected in pre-screening. This is a huge plus in the long run and can continue to mold the game into something even better over the years to come. PS All-Stars manages to form its own unique personality and take on the crossover fighting genre. With a strong multiplayer and fresh battle system, it’s sure to please Playstation fans and gamers alike looking for a fun social experience.

**Pros**

- Interesting and expansive character roster
- Dynamic stages
- Flexible cross-play system
- Free copy of Vita version with PS3 version purchase
- Excellent multiplayer and online play
- Unique and enjoyable gameplay

**Cons**

- Repetitive single-player
- Little to no presentation in single-player

Score: 76/100
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7 Quotes To Get You Through the Week

Anne Berlin
Staff Writer

You Mustn’t be afraid to dream a little bigger, darling.
- Eames (Tom Hardy)

The bad news is that time flies. The good news is; you’re the pilot.
- Unknown

Life begins at the end of your comfort zone.
- Neale Donald Walsch

Enjoy your youth. You’ll never be younger than you are at this very moment.
- Unknown

Life moves pretty fast. If you don’t stop and look around once in awhile you could miss it.
- Ferris Buehler (Matthew Broderick)

“An orgasm a day keeps the doctor away”.
- Mae West

We are all in the gutter, but some of us are looking at the starts.
- Oscar Wilde

Anne Berlin
Staff Writer

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Bulldogs Back for More!

Chris O’Hanlon
Staff Writer

The upcoming spring sports season is fast approaching, and students at BCC have a lot to be excited about. With a new season of baseball, softball, track and field, Men’s tennis, and golf, it’s shaping up to be a pretty exciting year for Bulldogs fans.

Perhaps the most exciting developments are the gains the Bulldogs have made in baseball. Last season, the team ranked 3rd in its region XIX division and is coming off a school record 26-win season – the most in Bergen Bulldog history. Despite disappointing 5-6 playoff elimination game at the hands of Northampton Community College, the team has a lot to offer this season.

Steven Mimms will be returning for his second full season as head coach. Joining the team as coaches are two players from the past, Mike Cassese – a former Bulldog captain – will step in as hitting coach. During his time as captain, Cassese helped lead the Bulldogs to their first playoff run in over 20 years. Former Bulldogs player Sean Sullivan will step in as pitching coach, with a wide variety of coaching experience under his belt. Along with his experience as a personal trainer, the Bulldogs are shaping up to be a stronger, more efficient team.

The Bergen Softball Team is also looking to be a strong playoff contender this year. Last season, under the leadership of Head Coach Rebecca Dodd and Assistant Bob Dodd, the team posted its first. 500 record since the 1990s. The team also made the first round of the playoffs. “We are hoping to improve more on that”, says new Lady Bulldogs’ coach Mallonee Gilbride, who joins the team with her assistant Karen Steinhoff.

With 5 players returning, the Lady Bulldogs hope to have a stronger performance this season, along with a deeper playoff run. With the new coaching staff, that certainly seems possible. Gilbride is a former infielder at Bloomfield College and has coached at various levels for the past 8 years. Steinhoff played Division III softball at Fairleigh Dickinson University as a pitcher and infielder. “We are both looking forward to this season and building a program at Bergen Community College for many seasons to come.” adds Gilbride. The team is currently accepting recruits for the Spring season. Practice begins on January 10, 2013, where the staff hopes to reduce the number of players to 14 for the season. Interested? Check out room G201 for more information.

The Track & Field team is looking to exceed last season’s performance. Last year, 10 students on the Track & Field team qualified for the NJCAA National Meet. The team competed in a variety of events and had its most success in the Pole Vault, where athlete Lucas Sedycia was chosen with the number 1 overall pick in last year’s NJFL Draft. And already has revealed his skills and leadership by throwing for a game winning touchdown, has his team in playoff contention after a horrific previous season, and just happens to be on the cusp of breaking Cam Newton’s all time rookie record for touchdowns and yards. But wait, there’s more!

The number 2 overall pick in last year’s NFL Draft, Washington Redskins quarterback Robert Griffin III, has proven to be a dual threat. RGIII has shown he can move the chains by running or throwing the ball, yet seems to play with a seemingly smarter mentality and has utilized both to an advantage like nobody in the NFL has ever seen.

Adding to the list of rookie sensations are Quarterback Russell Wilson who is leading the Carolina Panthers Quarterback Cam Newton, dropped jaws in area everywhere as he threw for over 4,000 yards and accounted for 21 touchdowns which included some of the best highlights of the season. Yet what the 2012 rookie class has demonstrated is nothing short of brilliance.

Perhaps the most exciting rookie is Indianapolis Colts Quarterback Andrew Luck was chosen with the number 1 overall pick in last year’s NFL Draft and already has revealed his skills and leadership by throwing for a game winning touchdown, has his team in playoff contention after a horrific previous season, and just happens to be on the cusp of breaking Cam Newton’s all time rookie record for touchdowns and yards. But wait, there’s more!

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Adding to the list of rookie sensations are Quarterback Russell Wilson who is leading the Seattle Seahawks to a legitimate playoff run, Running Back Doug Martin who has rushed over 1,000 yards and 9 touchdowns, RGIII’s best backfield buddy Alfred Morris who is helping the Redskins progress by running for over 1,000 yards as well 6 touchdowns thus far, and that’s just to name a few.

Questions swirled around the Colts organization after deciding to go with Luck and cut ties with the face of their franchise, future hall of famer and current Denver Bronco’s Quarterback Peyton Manning. Scouts projected Luck as the best quarterback they’ve seen since John Elway and it seems they couldn’t even predict how good he, or any of these phenomenal rookies, can be. Whether it’s the individual skills set level at a greater level, or competitive college play, these rookies are playing at an incredibly high level and are here to stay.

Yet these rookies didn’t just tell their stories by demonstrating their skill set or how good they are. They displayed the act of courage, perseverance, dedication and strength in the time of adversity to earn their stripes and be where they are today. As students in college, we can relate to them.

Each of us are at pivotal points in our lives where can we capitalize on opportunities or seemingly watch them pass right before our very eyes. When our name is called, we must answer to the call or watch the opportunity pass. We can’t all be like RGIII or Andrew Luck but we can progress like them and that is something we should all have in common.

NFL Rookies Know No Boundaries

Karim G. Daif
Sports Editor

It’s not the unbeaten, or the perfect season, or the NFL’s rookie of the year, Carolina Panthers Quarterback Cam Newton, dropped jaws in area everywhere as he threw for over 4,000 yards and accounted for 21 touchdowns which included some of the best highlights of the season. Yet what the 2012 rookie class has demonstrated is nothing short of brilliance.

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