Valdez Brings New Ideas to the Presidency

Laura Madera
News Editor

With the fall semester now in full gear, newly elected Student Government Association President Margarita Valdez has been hard at work. Legitimately addressing student concerns and increasing student participation within the college are top priorities for Valdez. Valdez and the rest of the Executive Board of SGA took a group of 30 prospective senators to the Hilton at Woodcliff Lake hotel for an overnight intensive training session.

Students can expect to see a more cohesive bond between the BCC Paramus, Lyndhurst and Hackensack campuses, as this is one of Valdez’s term goals. The new SGA Executive Board and Senate aim to guarantee maximum student representation and to keep students informed about their opportunities on campus.

With the school’s recent accomplishment of giving voting rights to the Alumni of Trustee on the Board of Trustees, SGA is more pressured than ever to play their role properly and to make the right decisions.

In order to provide all students with an SGA constitution, an SGA president’s duty is to listen to students, evaluate their concerns and bring it to the attention of administrators in order to create change. Bridging the ever-present gap between students and campus is an obstacle that all student governments face. Valdez hopes to turn this challenge into an opportunity and consequently prove that actions speak louder than words.

Valdez, a 21 year old Latina studying business administration at Bergen Community College, has already been examined for Fall 2012 classes are dispersed to all members of the commission, and was therefore, decentralized.

The MSCHE small team reviewed campus materials, and members of the community regarding standard 7, institutional assessment, and standard 14, assessment of student learning, to see if the college is in compliance with these standards.

Increase of Students and Decrease of Funds Takes Stage at Board Meeting

Alexis Bravo
Staff Writer

This month’s Board of Trustees Meeting took place on Thursday, October 4, 2012 at Bergen Community College’s Meadowlands Campus. The meeting lasted a little over an hour and was highly focused around BCC’s student retention and success rates, and plans for the future to improve. The meeting began with a warm welcome to the Meadowlands campus which addressed the success of the campus is currently having. With over 200 classes, 4,300 course takers, and the finalization of construction only five years after its opening.

Dr. B. Kaye Walter, the college’s presidente, then spoke about the problematic caused by the increase of students and the decrease of funds, strategies to shrink the academic achievement gap among the student population, and other issues that need much attention. “We have populations of students that drastically need our help,” said Dr. Walter as she showed viewers her Powerpoint, which explained how there were more students than the budget at Bergen supports.

Her presentation included a discussion about the lack of policies and procedures posted on the school’s website and issues with the Office of Financial Aid, particularly their long waiting lines. “Our students don’t deserve to sit in a four hour line, which is the average right now,” Dr. Walter said. The meeting moved on by stating that retention rates for Fall 2012 classes are already being examined and made announcements for important upcoming dates.

Later in the meeting, Board Member Philip J. Ciardo III, spoke about the Scholarship Club, a club made to involve all students who are interested in making scholarship dollars. Ciardo explained that the BCC Scholarship Foundation helps students look for available financial sources and scholarships to aid students past their Bergen education.

The Student Government Association had much to talk about at the meeting as well. Vice Chairman Cid D. Wilson spoke about the new student fee and the students hard work he has done in our community.

Rodriguez also acknowledged all clubs who attended the meeting, including the Art Club, the Philosophy Club, the Environmental Club, Model UN, as well as The Torch and SGA members.

When the floor opened to the public for questions or comments, BCC administrative staff member Ralph Choonoo paid a special tribute to Lamont Pride, a faculty member who specializes in registering students at BCC and who is retiring this year. Choonoo referred to Mr. Lamont as a “kindred, gentle person who is a “symbol of what higher education should be.” We give Lamont Pride a special thanks for all the hard work he has done in our community.

The meeting concluded with Chairman E. Carter Corrison asking for any final questions or comments and dismissing the crowd.
Sichan Siv: Escape From Cambodia

Aidan Bazikian  
Staff Writer

Bergen Community College is home to over 80 different languages with a diverse student population from more than 100 different countries. Bergen was profoundly privileged to have ambassador Sichan Siv return for a third time to tell us his heartfelt memoir.

This visit could not have been more timely; Bergen was celebrating diversity week. Perhaps you noticed a group of individuals in some peculiar and colorful garb walking around campus recently? Siv and his wife, Martha, adopted a Cambodian name as their home, America has adopted Siv.

Siv’s story began 60 years ago in the French colony of Cambodia. Siv recalls that Cambodia had been a colony for so long that the outside world was nothing except France, the motherland. But when the French left in 1953, when Cambodia gained its independence, Siv and other Cambodians learned of America, that Siv got his first job as a flight attendant and was able to fly all around Asia during the peak of the communist revolution that in a few years would reach Siv’s homeland.

In 1975, the Khmer Rouge came into Cambodia and turned the land upside down. They began a genocide that transformed a once peaceful nation into an enslaved agrarian society. Cambodia became a land of blood and tears.

“Under the Khmer Rouge’s rule, there were only two types of people: those who have died, and those who will die,” said Siv dismissively. This sentiment both captures the terrifying state of Cambodia, and the hopelessness felt by the people.

While riding his bicycle through the country in hopes of making it to freedom in Thailand, Siv was captured by the Khmer Rouge as a suspected border crosser, and if not for a truck driver who defended his innocence by claiming he was traveling the country in search of his family, Siv would have been killed that same day. Like all other Cambodians at the time, Siv was captured and forced to labor for 18 hours a day, and given one bowl of rancid soup, unsure if each day would be his last.

Siv was determined to gain his freedom. Volunteering for a logging truck, Siv found himself alone in the truck. He crawled to the back of the truck, along the timber, and jumped off to find his freedom, but without paying a small price, for his pants got snagged on some lumber and he was dragged for a few hundred feet.

While traveling to freedom in Thailand, Siv was injured by a punji pit (deep pit with sharpened bamboo sticks at the bottom, which is supposed to impale it’s unlucky victim) and was forced to crawl, but eventually made it to Thailand where he was imprisoned for illegal entry. After being bailed out by one of his friends, Siv retraced to a nearby Cambodian refugee camp.

The war-torn displaced Cambodians were full of sorrow from the past, and worried about the prosperity of their future. Siv wanted to help, so he setup English classes which not only taught refugees an essential skill for future migration, but also helped them forget about their woes.

Siv came to America arriving in Connecticut worried, tired, and filled with hope with only his mother’s scarf, an empty rice bag, and two dollars. After working as a burger joint for a few months, Siv had saved up enough money to relocate to New York City, where he worked as a taxi driver while applying, and reapplying to local universities.

They all turned him down for not having proper transcripts, except for one. Columbia University accepted Siv to the Masters of International Affairs program with a full scholarship. Upon graduating, Siv volunteered himself for the ambassador Sichan Siv in the middle of his extraordinary presentation.

George H.W. Bush presidential campaign, and was appointed to Deputy Assistant by President Bush himself.

While working in his high level White House job, Siv was asked to return to Cambodia as a representative of the President, an extraordinary and gratifying opportunity. Siv was able to back to his hometown after 16 years, and villagers told him he had “Golden Bones” because a person who is blessed or lucky is known to have Golden Bones in Cambodia. This would also become his memoir title.

In 2001, Sichan Siv was appointed as a U.S. ambassador to the United Nations by President Bush. Siv recalls these councils and assemblies attended as an official ambassador of United States, representing on behalf of the government, president, and it’s people, were Siv’s proudest moments.

Sichan Siv’s story is a breathtaking tale of extraordinary optimism and perseverance. It’s always so shocking hearing the microcosmic atrocities of the world, and how much the human spirit can withstand. Golden Bones: An Extraordinary Journey from Hell in Cambodia to a New Life in America is not only a great read for the previous mentioned reason, but also a first-hand history source of life in Cambodia during a truly unique and frightening rule of the Khmer Rouge during the 1970s.

A Time For Celebration!

Jose Urquijo  
Staff Writer

Since 1968, between September 15 and October 15, people across the United States of America celebrate and observe the history and cultures, and pay merit to all those of Hispanic and Latin American descent (Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, Central America). Bergen, representing on behalf of the Latino community a voice. Since 2007, Bergen has established an official Hispanic Heritage Month because of the significance that it carries among many Latin American countries.

Many Latin American countries won their independence on September 15. Others celebrate the independence that they reached within the remaining 29 days of the month.

Columbus Day, or the Day of All Races (Día de las Razas), is also celebrated because within those 30 days of observation. BCC, proud of the large diversity of the Hispanic and Latin Americans who attend the school, has an entire month dedicated to this celebration, full of great shows and guest speakers.

On September 28/29 the Thalia Spanish Theatre “Colombia en su Salsa” was featured. Thalia Spanish Theatre was founded by the actress Silvia Brito in 1977 in Queens, NY.

Silvia’s goal was to give a rapidly growing, neglected Latino community a voice. Since the opening of the theatre, it has gone on to create more than 150 productions across many countries, directed by no other than Angel Garcia. Events for the month also included poet/writer Laura Griveo, author of “Huellas en la Arena (Footprints in the Sand).” On Wednesday, October 10 members of the BCC community will have the privilege of indulging their ears with the fusion of many genres and soul touching sounds of Latin Rock’s own Cosmic Jibaro Band. The Latino Heritage Recognition Banquet will feature a Combo Latino playing their rendition of many salsa classics as well as their own musical works, on Friday, October 12. If you are a “Salsero” you will be there.

To finish the celebration, on Friday, October 19, BCC will be invaded by Salsa Magic, an interactive dance party. Salsa Magic is the only show of its kind that brings the Latin dance craze to college campuses, full of educational dance classes and dance performances in merengue, bachata, salsa, reggaeton and Latin hip-hop. A Bailar se ha Dicho (Let’s Dance)!
Last academic year, scholarships awarded at BCC amounted to a whopping $387,000. The BCC Scholarship Foundation is dedicated to finding scholarships for students, but the catch is you must apply.

Scholarships are a financial aid resource that serve the purpose of helping students further their education. Scholarships are awarded on various criteria, reflecting the values and purposes of the donor or founder.

For example, The Oritani Bank Charitable Foundation Scholarship provides 10 different $1500 awards for students with a minimum 3.0 GPA, who exhibit a financial need and are Bergen County Residents. It also provides five $2000 awards for single parents who also meet the criteria.

The Gourmet Dining LLC Scholarship awards BCC students $20,000 worth of scholarships a year. Half the scholarships go to students with a minimum 2.5 GPA who exhibit financial need and are also Culinary Arts Majors.

Filling out your scholarship application correctly and submitting it on-time are of the utmost importance. The deadline for application submission for this year is October 15.

1. Many scholarships are either ethnicity-specific or prefer one, therefore fill out the optional heritage question as specifically as possible. E.g. Chinese instead of Asian.
2. Under Employment, multiply your weekly, i.e. cross pay times 52 (the number of weeks in one year) to find out your yearly gross pay.
3. Include additional income or financial support. Many students at Bergen are still living at home and do not pay rent, groceries, etc. Parents, relatives or spouses offer this financial support. Include the rent and average of groceries at minimum in the “amount of additional income”. Students who fail to provide a reasonable estimate of their additional income, may have their application disqualified!
4. Include all amounts of Financial Aid from State, Federal or scholarships. The total household income should be the sum of the student’s yearly gross pay, all additional financial support and any financial aid.
5. At 300 words, use the essay portion to help you explain why you deserve their help.
6. The community service portion is important and often a criteria requirement. List the organization, your specific activity, dates and duration.

If you still need help filling out an application, contact the Scholarship club, created specifically for this purpose. The club advisor is professor Judith Fitzpatrick, who can be reached via e-mail at jfitzpatrick@bergen.edu

Keep your eyes open for outside scholarships as well, such as the Financial Literacy PSA contest awarding up to $5,000 for the best financial literacy, student made, PSA video. The deadline for submission is October 31.

Obtaining an education is the one the smartest investments one can make. Even smarter would be to take advantage of all the scholarship opportunities at BCC.

Happy Scholarship Hunting!
**“Birds of Prey” Come to BCC**

**Grammy Nominated Musician Visits Bergen CC**

**Nine Greyhound Dogs Come to Bergen**
Continued from pg. 1: Accreditation

To prove that Bergen is in compliance, the college had to show "evidence of a comprehensive, organized, and sustained process for the assessment of institutional effectiveness with evidence that assessment information is used in planning and allocating resources (standard 7); and 'evidence of systematic, sustained assessment of student learning outcomes at the course and program levels, including general education (standard 14)."

Although the MSCHE did not give any requirements that the college has to meet in order to keep a good status with standards 7, 14, they recommended that the college "improve AES plans, outcomes and assessments;" "provide additional faculty and staff development opportunities for outcomes/assessment work; directly connect [ Bergen's] Dashboard, Strategic Plan, [and] outcomes [of] assessment and budgeting processes;" "develop program learning outcomes for all degree programs" "assess general education outcomes"; "develop a program review cycle and review all degree programs on a regular basis"; and "complete curriculum mapping process for general education outcomes and all program outcomes."

If Bergen was found again not to be in compliance with standards 7, and 14, the school may have been put on academic probation. It is not uncommon for a college to receive warnings, and rare for a college to lose accreditation.

The school is not in dire condition if the institution is placed on a warning, but if Bergen's accreditation was to be removed, the school could no longer be a path for advancement. The students' credits would not be transferable or acceptable to other colleges, all funding to the school would be put to a halt, and no student attending Bergen Community College would quality for financial aid.

Unless extreme circumstances occur, Bergen Community College is on the right path and will most likely keep its accreditation. If the college is found to be in compliance in March 2012, the next inspection will be in five years with a bigger group from the MSCHE.

Continued from pg. 1: SGA President

positions held by the new SGA president, Valdez was also head of two food drives for the Bergen Food Pantry, and with the help of fellow students raised over $2,000. These positions as well as her work as a student aide at The Center for Student Success in the Paramus campus helped Valdez hone her leadership skills and fulfill her passion for helping others.

Earlier this year Valdez was awarded the first Newman Civic Fellow in New Jersey, was one of 22 Latinas in the country selected to attend a National Association for Campus Activities (NACA) conference in which she received some training for her current position as SGA president.

When asked about what motivated her to run for SGA president, an enthused Valdez said, "My passion is to help others, to achieve goals and get things done; therefore, what motivated me to run for SGA president has always been and will always be the students. I want their voices to be heard. I want to fight for their rights, and now that I am the president I will make sure that they have the best of their experiences at BCC. I want them to feel like home.

The new school president, Dr. B. Kaye Walter, is another new face that represents the changes made at BCC. I want them to know that by having a new president means that a lot of things are going to be changed, and new ideas will come along!"

It appears to be that incoming freshmen are not the only students who will have to adjust themselves to a new environment. With the addition, replacement and renovation of clubs, offices and important figures on campus, continuing students, faculty and staff will also need to familiarize themselves with the changes made at BCC.

6/31/2012 11:42 AM
Unauthorized Soliciting
Room S-212
Student disrupted a class to promote a comedy event - Dean Melendez notified.

7/9/2012
Harassment
Student Center
Student states another student keeps making sexual advances; however, she repeatedly said no, and made it clear that she is uninterested.
She is unsure if he is listening - Dean Melendez notified.

7/14/2012 3:00 PM
Disruptive Student
Room E-155-E
Student using a cell phone during quiz was asked to leave class; Became agitated and confrontational - Dean Melendez notified.

7/18/2012 3:53-4:34 AM
Harassment
Office of Information Technology
Staff in the IT department received disturbing voice messages - Bergen County Police Department to investigate.

7/19/2012 1:45 PM
Verbal Dispute
Infer Hall
One summer camp student verbally assaulted other students. Parents notified child will not be allowed back to summer camp.

7/24/2012 6:30-6:45 PM
Theft (Hubcap)
Parking Lot B
Victim states that three hubcaps have been stolen. BCPD notified - Report taken.

8/2/2012 7:20 PM
Threat
Clare Learning Center, room 207
Student made bias remarks towards women and stated should bring gun to school - Student Arrested by BCPD.

8/6/2012 9:40 PM
Verbal Dispute
Student cut in front of the line. When told to go to the end of the line, she refused. Student was told not to come back for the rest of the day.

By: Aidan Bazikian
Staff Writer

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Letter from Student Government

Margarita Valdez
SGA President

Dear Fellow students,

On behalf of the Student Government Association, I would like to give the students who are starting classes at both Paramus and Hackensack campuses a warm welcome to Bergen Community College, and I wish you all a successful year. On the other hand, in Paramus we are a quarter into the fall semester, and by now some students might be preparing for their first exams and I wish you all the best of luck as well.

This year, along with the support from the new President of Bergen Community College, Dr. B. Kaye Walter, students, faculty, staff, and collaborators, The SGA has chosen various goals to benefit the whole student body.

The Student Government Association has already hosted the Book Exchange, which went extremely well during the first two weeks of September. Many students had the opportunity to sell, buy, or trade their old textbooks with other students, as a result, they earned some extra cash. Therefore, we encourage those students that still have some old textbooks to come to the Book Exchange that will be hosted at the Meadowlands campus during October 3 and 4.

The SGA created the Club Sponsors to resolve all that display outstanding work within the Bergen Community College and serve the students to the fullest. Furthermore, The SGA has chosen various goals to host resolutions, and SGA helps to make complaints or concerns heard. If you don’t ask, the answer is always no. If you come by and get to know more what the purpose of those meetings are, you will be involved in the Bergen community, do not worry! There are many clubs and organizations that are still accepting new members, and the Student Government Association is one of them.

The SGA has scheduled meetings, on Wednesday at 12:30 pm, Rm. A-113. The purpose of those meetings is to function as a governing representative democracy on behalf of all students. Come by and get to know more what our organization does, as well as input new ideas that would benefit the students. Everyone is welcomed.

As Nora Roberts one day said, “If you don’t go after what you want, someone will have it. If you don’t ask, the answer is always no. If you come by and get to know more what the purpose of those meetings are, you will be always in the same place.”

Sincerely,

Margarita Valdez
SGA President

Editorial and Opinion Pieces

As an open public forum, The Torch welcomes guest opinion pieces and letters to the editor from any member of the Bergen Community College community. Materials should be submitted to eic@torchonline.org or delivered to The Torch office, B-101. Such materials should include the writer’s name, contact information and affiliation with the college. Students should include their major; faculty and staff should include their title or position. Opinion “pieces” are limited to 600 words and letters to the editor to 200 words. The Torch reserves the right to edit and to refuse publication of any submission.
What do you like and what would you change?

Photos and Questions done by: Valerie Batista

Shanell Nunez
Social Work

What I like: What I like about Bergen is that there are so many new people and that it is very social. Everyone is welcoming.

What I would change: I do not think I would change anything. I like it just the way it is.

Joel Martinez
General Education

What I like: What I love about Bergen is the academics. The teachers are always on top of what they have to do, and they are always teaching us to the best of their ability.

What I would change: If I had to change something, it would be parking and silly things like that. Overall, I like Bergen... for now.

Mahmoud A. Elsayed
Business Administration

What I like: What I like about Bergen community college is the technology and we have very good professors.

What I would change: What I do not like about it is that it’s a smoke-free campus.

Andrea Delgado
Social Work

What I like: What I like about Bergen Community College is the diversity.

What I would change: I wish there were less cliques and everybody interacted with each other instead of just sticking with their own.

Alexis Bravo
Communication Arts

What I like: “I like how Bergen Community College has so many different extracurricular activities and programs to offer for students, both in the country and internationally.”

What I would change: “If I could change something about Bergen, it would be to provide more information to students about the different opportunities that we have to offer because while we have them, we are not doing enough to expose them.”

Raymond Muniz
Theatre Arts

What I like: “This is my first semester here and I like a lot of things about Bergen Community College. The major thing I like about it are the options that you have. The availability of major that you are offered.”

What I would change: “What I would change is that no one really helps you. When you pick a major they don’t help you step by step.”

Christopher Escolastico
Fine and Performing Arts

What I like: “What I like about Bergen community college is the environment, the people, it’s a good energy. Everyone is usually positive and helpful. The teachers are really insightful and they would defiantly stick out their neck to help you. What I would change: I know it’s a community school, but dorms would be cool.”

Charlene Roberts
Theatre Arts

What I like: “What I like about Bergen community college is the fact that they have a great curriculum and great teachers.

What I would change: What I don’t like about Bergen is that they are not more about being one on one, personal, with the students to make sure their success is accomplished. I also do not like the fact that financial aid is always messing up... It happened to me, it sucks!”

Transfer Scholarships Available

More than $40 million in Berkeley College grants and scholarships for qualified students provided in the past award year

The Transfer Opportunity Program (T.O.P. Scholars) from Berkeley College offers scholarships to eligible students who have earned an Associate’s degree from another college. Scholarship amounts are based on a student’s grade point average (G.P.A.) and may be up to 30% of the tuition at Berkeley.

Who is eligible?

To be eligible as a T.O.P. Scholar, a student must:

- Have an Associate’s degree from another college.
- Be enrolled as a full-time student at Berkeley College.
- Remain continuously enrolled for their first academic year (three quarters).

After that, the student may take one quarter off without losing the scholarship.

For more information:

BerkeleyCollege.edu/Transfer_Scholarship

800-446-5400, ext. GBC

Berkeley College reserves the right to add, delete, and change, without notice to program and policy at any time. Information contained in this catalog was correct as of publication date. Students should refer to the current student handbook prior to the beginning of the fall semester. Please visit BerkeleyCollege.edu for additional information. Financial aid is awarded based on financial need and eligibility.
If you were thinking that Bergen Community College professors are just professors, you got it wrong. Not only do they teach, they actually do it themselves!

The Faculty Art Exhibition at BCC opened on the third floor of West Hall on September 25, at 5 p.m. Refreshments and appetizers were served outside the gallery. The exhibition will be continuing until October 25, meaning that you still have time to go and see the amazing artwork!

Following are some faculty highlights, whose art is definitely worth seeing:

**Gregg Biermann** (www.greggbiermann.com) is displaying the pieces Hackensack Motet, New Jersey Gradual, and Traffic Patterns. Professor Biermann's art are not paintings, but videos edited with some very special effects. “My work comes out of the avant-garde tradition of film as visual art. Avant-garde cinema is an important and relatively young artistic project,” said Biermann.

**Bart D'Andrea** is showing two of his paintings named Sedona and Vortex. The colors of the painted sunset create a most brilliant effect, so bright that one can imagine the sun is actually shining.

**Alyce Gottesman** (www.alvycgotesman.com) is presenting two paintings, Divergent Spaces and Intrusion, both made with acrylic, ink, graphite, and ground glass beads on canvas. Professor Gottesman states: “I have been drawing lines into my paintings for many years, but now I actually paint with lines. The lines are the subject of my work. They are a metaphor of the human condition...”

**Greg Lindquist** (www.greglindquist.com) has on display a painting named Shark in a Jar. On his website Professor Lindquist states: “Some of my works depict enigmatic objects in the landscape, while others frame the landscape through technology such as digital screens that, like paintings, mediate how we experience our world.”

**Ethan Greenbaum** (www.ethangreenbaum.com) is presenting a piece of art called A View, which uses a special technique, described next to the piece as “Direct to Substrate print on vacuum formed plastic.” Most of his work consists largely of marble, colorful rocks, and other materials.

**Vasselina Traptcheva's Sphere I, fair is definitely a must see. The yellow butterflies on a pink and white background are a perfect blend, creating a very peaceful scene.**

**Despina Metaxatos** (www.despinaweb.com) has on show a series of drawings consisting of graphite on wood panel.

**Norman Shafto**

Staff Writer

Faculty Art Exhibition 2012

Norman Shafto
Staff Writer

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**Despina Metaxatos** (www.despinaweb.com) has on show a series of drawings consisting of graphite on wood panel.
Andrea Geller (www.gellerart.com) is exhibiting a series of paintings titled Journey I, Journey II, and Journey III, all of which are oil on canvas. Professor Geller said, "Journey I, II, III addresses a theme of movement through time. These paintings in particular were painted shortly after we brought my daughter to college and they represent the journey she was about to embark on."

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Vasselina Traptcheva's oil on canvas Sphere I, Fair is definitely a must see. The yellow butterflies on a pink and white background are a perfect blend, creating a very peaceful scene.

Despina Metaxatos (www.metaxatos.com) is showing her paintings Betty, Harry with his hat, Sara, and Maya. Professor Mindell has displayed his work on display in national galleries, and is "seeking approval to exhibit his artwork in the White House as a statement of support for community college education nationwide," according to his website.

Saydi Kaufman (www.saydi.kaufman.com) is displaying a painting named Zelia. "My work explores abstract portraiture through large scale oil paintings and ink drawings that contemplate the boundaries between figuration and abstraction," states Professor Kaufman on her website.

Claire McConaughy (www.clairemcconaughy.com) has on show her painting Claudine and Duchess. Do not miss this opportunity to take a look at all the artwork at the Faculty Art Exhibition!
An Educational Shock

Anthony Senga
Co-Editor

When did I discover that the family I was living with had an account opened for them with a bank? The date was January 20, 1824, and it is known as the famous “Electoral Tie” event. John Quincy Adams, the then-President, had a narrow lead over his opponent, Andrew Jackson, in the electoral votes, but both candidates had surpassed the then-necessary 131 electoral votes to win the presidency. As a result, the House of Representatives would be called upon to decide the next President. 

In 1824, the House of Representatives was divided into two houses, the Senate and the House of Representatives. The House of Representatives had the power to decide the next President, and it was a close contest between Andrew Jackson and John Quincy Adams. However, the election was not decided in the usual way, and the process of selecting the next President was complicated by the fact that neither candidate had a majority of the electoral votes. 

The election was decided by the House of Representatives, which had 35 voting members. Each member had one vote, and the candidate who received a majority of the votes would be declared the winner. The House of Representatives was divided into two parties, the Democratic-Republican Party and the Anti-Federalist Party, and it was a close contest between the two parties. 

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Dropping It Like It’s Hot

Freshman Dropout Rates Increasingly Alarming. Who Is To Blame?

Ricardo Montero
Staff Writer

The college freshmen dropout problem has not been recent shocking news or some kind of unknown mystery. This problem has been transcendent throughout most of the students’ years. However, the reason to why students have decided to leave college in order to thrive in the fast food industry is a complex issue.

Everyone wants to blame the economy for everything. The national debt this, our economy that, college is expensive, etc. The government and its administrations are responsible for all the problems that are shown in the first semester. However, if you look at the business plan to keep students in school, the goal is putting students from doing programs trying to keep students in school.

Economy: While Romney believes that the market should repair itself, Obama takes matters into his own hands. Like he has done for the past four years, he plans to help the economy through unemployment spending, tax cuts for those earning under $250,000 a year, and raising taxes for the wealthy to reduce the deficit.

Similar to his position on education, Romney believes that the government’s role in the economy should be small. He backs up his belief with tax cuts 20% in individual income tax, 10% in corporate income tax, and complete repeal of the estate tax. The alternative minimum tax, and taxes on interest, dividends, and capital gains for people earning under $200,000 a year. He believes that these tax cuts will stimulate the economy and create new jobs.

Gay Marriage: Although Obama has flip-flopped on this issue before, he is now a firm supporter of gay marriage. He was careful about supporting same-sex marriage until the Romney campaign was eager to get the message out about Obama’s inconsistency on the issue. He wants Congress to repeal “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” (which protects closeted homosexuals from discrimination but not un-closeted ones) and allow gays to serve in the military openly. However, Obama has not announced any future plans about nationally legalizing same-sex marriage.

He has made a tax credit for college students of up to $2500 per year, reformed the loan system so all federal loans are directly from the federal government instead of through private banks, wants to enable college graduates to cap their loan payments at 10 percent of their disposable income, have the remainder of the students loans forgiven after 10 to 20 years of reliable repayment, and increase Pell Grants for low and middle income students.

Romney wants the government’s hands out of the education system as much as possible. He believes in keeping the Pell Grants at the current rate of $5000 a year. To the rate of inflation, says he will repeal Obama’s reform of the federal loan system if elected president, and wants to expand the private sector’s role in education and finances. His philosophy is that more involvement from private business will spur competition, keep costs down, and expedite access to higher education.

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SAATH is a new club formed in Bergen Community College. It stands for South Asian American Traditional Heritage. SAATH comes from the Sanskrit word “sahita” which means “coming together.” The club has officially been recognized by Dean Melendez on October 4th, 2012. A group of students, Haroon Sethi (President), Gayatri Sharma (Vice-President), Bhavini Joshi (Secretary), and Hassan Ahmad (Treasurer) along with the advisors, Dr. Amarjeet Kaur and Professor Benicia D’sa went to the Student Life to get the club recognized.

The group put in a lot of hard work to go through all the processes to give birth to a new club which is known by many but recognized by none. In an unofficial meeting that took place on October 4th, the club got a very good response. There was an adequate turnout of over 25 interested students including Guajarati’s, Pakistanis, Afghanis, Dominicans, and Philippines. The E-Board discussed various topics such as Navratri which is an upcoming Indian holiday which is mainly celebrated in the western state of Gujarat. The club is planning to celebrate Navratri in school to let the students know about the Indian culture. They will be dressed accordingly to the theme and will celebrate the holiday with its customs and traditions. There will be performances by the members who are working really hard to promote the club. Besides just the Indian culture and traditions, the club promotes all different races who fall into South Asia. We will very soon be seeing different cultural activities and traditions through this club.

SAATH is in its early stages as a functioning group at Bergen Community College and it welcomes participants from all cultures to participate in our various activities and events. SAATH is not only a club for South Asians, but it is open to every person out there in Bergen. Navratri will be celebrated during the 3rd week of October. The place for the event is still yet to be retained which will be settled sometime soon. Along with that they are planning to celebrate Eid-ul-Azha which is a Muslim holiday. This is a holiday where Muslims celebrate, have a get together and spend the whole day with their family and friends. They go over to all their relatives’ house and celebrate the day of happiness. This event takes place two times a year. Hassan Ahmad (treasurer) is working on speaking to the President of the Muslim Student Association to collaborate with them for this religious holiday. Eid is celebrated widely around the world and SAATH wants to spread the knowledge to the students to let them know what this holiday really is.

SAATH has many vast ideas about bringing different cultures together. The E-Board wants to learn about many different cultures and traditions and apply them in Bergen. The club has also requested Dean Melendez to put the flags of India, Pakistan, Bolivia, and a couple of others to the wall of flags. Once again, this club is not just for South Asians, but it is open to anyone. Through this club, the E-Board wants to give a chance to everyone out there to promote their values and traditions. There is a lot of people are misguided with some cultures and traditions, and this board wants the students know the real side of various customs of different traditions and religions.

We wish the advisors and E-Board members all the very best with this amazing club and we are looking forward to see some terrific performances this semester.

Jamie Kurtz
Photo Editor

This has been an exciting summer in the astronomy world with a partial lunar eclipse, the Perseids meteor shower, and the Curiosity Rover landing on Mars! But we have much more to look forward to in this Fall semester.

To kick it off, Astronomy Day part 2!  Scaskey states that the theme this year is “Bringing Astronomy to the People.” It takes place on October 20th and it is an all day event. You can contact the astronomy club at rospbaum@bergen.edu to see what events are being held. And coincidentally, the Orionids Meteor Shower is the night of Astronomy Day. It peaks the 20th into the 21st but some meteors may still be seen form Oct. 17th – 25th. It is an irregular shower but produces up to 60 meteors per hour at its peak! We have a guaranteed dark sky because of the new moon and best viewing is looking East after the midnight hour. Any questions, feel free to contact Bergen’s Astronomy club or log onto seasky.org.

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The Franciscan College of New Jersey
that if you died in a house and did not cross over, your spirit roamed that residence until the spirit was satisfied. This was especially so if that person was murdered. One important haunted house story is that of the Toms River Haunt.

Josue Chinchilla and Michele Callan moved into the home March 1st with Callan’s teenage daughter and 6-year-old son. After the family settled in, they said they would come home and find their clothes and towels disgorged from closets and scattered all around the room. Doors would creak open and slam closed in vacant parts of the house. At night, footsteps could be heard from the kitchen after everyone was tucked in, and incomprehensible whispering seemed to fade in and out of thin air, according to the couple. The most disturbing abnormality, they claim, was the sound they heard through the vents to the basement — the muffled din of something being dragged through the cellar. Chinchilla claimed he felt an invisible hand on his arm, and then saw sheets slide off the bed on their own. Callan also said that at the same time, she saw a dark apparition in their bedroom. The family left the house March 10th and moved to a motel room in Point Pleasant Beach, where they have been living since.

Whether or not you believe that there are ghosts or spirits or you believe in the Wiccan ways, there have been many instances where strange occurrences have happened. If you’re not into the whole real experience thing and would much rather take a less threatening road, then this October you can visit the following places:

### Bergen County:
- Haunted House Hill — Woodridge, NJ
- Night-Mares Haunted Attraction — Montvale, NJ

### Morris County:
- Field Of Screams — Mountville, NJ
- Casola Farms Haunted Hayride of Terror — Malboro, NJ

### Mercer County:
- Field of Terror — East Windsor, NJ

### Gloucester County:
- Night of Terror — Mullica Hill, NJ

This year Halloween is on a Wednesday so vampires, super heroes, ghosts, zombies and other creatures have planned to party the weekend before. Save the date and get ready to rock the scariest night of the year with them!

If you are looking for a unique party, Jersey City has one for you. The Ghost of Uncle Joe's Ball will take place on Saturday 27th at The Historic Jersey City & Harsimus Cemetery. Yes, you read correctly, the party is at a cemetery. The cemetery is rich in history even though it is abandoned, the idea is to raise money to preserve it. Local bands will perform rock music and there will be also a resurrection, a zombie parade and an “after-life” party.

Another option in the area is bar hopping. This is always fun so if you know already that the streets are the place to be check out the event Halloween Pub crawling in Hoboken. Grab your costume, your friends, and start hunting bars from noon till 9pm. The organizers will give you a wristband, a cup and a crawl map with the bars that have special prices and drinks for the participants. Tickets for Saturday 27th cost $10 at barcrawl.com

But being outside might not be as appealing if you have decided to wear a sexy panda costume, a sexy nurse one or just a sexy something. In this case you can cross the river and look for one of the coolest parties, even for underage people...
For this fall season, it’s not mainly about what you need to go and buy to look fabulous, but what you can put together with the things you already have in your own closet.

The fall trends for this season:

**Knitted Sweaters:** These knitted sweaters can be paired with: jeans, leggings (depending on length of sweater), and of course skirts.

**Boots:** One of the biggest transitions into fall fashion is the shoes. The types of boots that are “in” for this season are: military combat boots, ankle length, and high top ones. Military combat boots are especially popular for guys to be wearing this season as well. You can wear these boots with everything and as often as you like this season.

**Scarfs/Beanie Hats:** This type of accessory can be used to dress up or down an outfit you are wear anytime. Beanie hats are another way for you to keep warm, still look good for girls and guys. Also, this slouchy hat can be paired with almost any item you wear going out.

**Army Jackets:** Another big item this season are army jackets. This unisex jacket is versatile and comes in different colors like: green, brown, and gray.

**Sneakers:** Even if you aren’t the type to wear this casual type of shoe, it’s still very popular and trending for the season. For fall, the types of sneakers that are being worn include bright colors and patterns, so you can’t go wrong with picking a wild color for a sneaker.

**Blazers:** A blazer is an easy piece that you can wear in so many different ways. You can wear it causally with a graphic t-shirt and jeans or go business like with a collared shirt inside.

**Skirts:** just because it’s beginning to get colder outside doesn’t mean you can’t rock a skirt outside. If you don’t feel like baring any skin, your skirt can be worn with stockings, leggings, or leg warmers.

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**The Aura & Sex**

Joseph Micheal Levy says that when you have sex with someone, he or she shows in your aura for at least three years. Now you may be thinking that sex is still just sex, but as defined by spiritualityworld.com, Sex is about sharing and exchanging energies that originate more from our souls than just our heads or from our genitals. It is about uniting our longing for wholeness and connection, yearnings that are naturally sacred and spiritual. It is about pleasing and being pleased in whatever consensual form that takes.

Sex without love depletes one’s vitality and degrades the emotions. Imagine the confused aura of someone who sleeps with multiple people and carries around these multiple energies. “Sexual contact with many partners transfers the toxins that are secreted. These toxins can circumvent a person’s immune system and lodge deep in the deep tissues. Moreover, when we have several sexual partners, these partners show up in our electromagnetic field creating a clouded aura whose light has faded” says Levy. This is why it is very important that you be fully aware when you open your energy field to another. What you may also not be aware of is that others can feel that energy which can repel positive energy and attract negative energy into your life. As Lisa Chase Patterson always says, “Never sleep with someone you wouldn’t want to be.”

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Interview with Athletic Director Jorge Hernandez

J.P. Mercedes
Sports Editor

Jorge Hernandez has been the Athletic Director at Bergen for almost two years. He has also coached the Bergen Baseball team for six years, since 2005, before becoming the director of the athletics department. Before coming to Bergen, he served as an assistant coach for the baseball team at Rutgers Newark and Ramapo College.

“We’re expecting to be very competitive this fall season for every respective sport,” Hernandez said. He also goes on to say that they are very excited to have a new Soccer Coach for the Women’s team, Head Coach Colleen Caldwell, who played with the women’s soccer team at Rutgers University. The Men’s Soccer team is ranked 15th in Division 3 and the Women’s Tennis team is in 20 years since there was a women’s tennis team.

The Cross Country team will be visiting the other colleges throughout the state for the fall season. “Our Women’s Volleyball started the season so far with a 4-2 record. So we’re expecting great things from the Women’s division this season,” said Director Hernandez. Every team in every sport this upcoming season during the Fall Semester is expecting to bring their A game. They’re going to bring everything they got to these games, so they can make it to the playoffs, then to the State Championship. You can expect a lot of competition from these upcoming sporting events this Fall Semester, and expect a lot of great games.”

Karim G. Diaf
Sports Editor

The NBA is back! But for the first time in almost 50 years, Jersey will be without a home team. Waving bye-bye to the former New Jersey Nets, Jersey is set to open up a season that won’t have a home NBA team to root for. So with that being said, who you rooting for? The high flying New York Knickerbockers or the new, strictly black and white, revamped Brooklyn Nets?

With Carmelo Anthony and Deron Williams facing each other for the first time as inner city rivals on November 1st at the new Barclays Arena in Brooklyn, New York is up for grabs and the East Coast is awaiting an answer. Better yet, NBA nation wants an answer! That answer will be delivered through a full 82 game, NBA season. The first full season since 2011 before the NBA went into labor talks with the players union which resulted in the lockout that suspended the NBA until Christmas last year. Talk about Santa filling the Christmas stockings. Carmelo Anthony went off against the Celtics winning in the first 40+point performance of the season.

Injuries, player development, and the firing of the Knicks former Head Coach Mike D’Antonio, really hurt the tri-states’ chances of seeing any real chance of a championship come our way. But this year brings promise! Williams and Anthony are ready to compete for a title and the only thing stopping them is themselves. Anthony is a bonafide superstar. If the Knicks can get him to play a full 48 minutes, and have Head Coach Mike Woodson can get him to play some defence, the Knicks will be a team to be reckoned with. Yet, if the already well established, Nets Head Coach Avery Johnson, can get his team to live up to their surprisingly overwhelming potential, the Knicks might be awaiting a rude awakening and may have to move over for the Brooklyn train that has DWill leading the way.

Although it is way too early to crown anyone, November 1st, 2012 at the new Barclays Arena in Brooklyn, the fire will rise again as the Knicks VS Nets rivalry will be reawakened. A new look at basketball will appear and a breath of fresh, Brooklyn air, will be taken as the victorious team will walk out 1-0 and own the city. At least for that night. As the infamous Bart Scott quote goes, “CAN’T WAIT”. NEW YORK KNICKS VS. BROOKLYN NETS. WHO YOU ROOTIN FOR!!

Dwyane Wade of the Miami Heat

Through the Tunnel or Over the Bridge?

Karim G. Diaf
Sports Editor

When on instant replay, obviously in game 2, the runner for the trying to slide back to 2nd base media after the game. After for Girardi to air it out to the and a call, and that was enough everything.” Although Girardi’s

new Barclays Arena in Brooklyn, New York is up for grabs and the East Coast is awaiting an answer. Better yet, NBA nation wants an answer! That answer will be delivered through a full 82 game, NBA season. The first full season since 2011 before the NBA went into labor talks with the players union which resulted in the lockout that suspended the NBA until Christmas last year. Talk about Santa filling the Christmas stockings. Carmelo Anthony went off against the Celtics winning in the first 40+point performance of the season.

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