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Jon Gabry, a blind and deaf student. He not only survives in the face of adversity, he thrives in it. Dr. Yun K. Kim, Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness, said she was very pleased with the decision because it meant that the faculty’s hard work to bring the school up to compliance had paid off. However, she also acknowledged that the school had more work to do. “Our faculty and staff worked incredibly hard to meet all 14 standards. However, we have a lot more work to do,” Dr. Kim said about the school’s Middle States status.

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) officially reaffirmed the warning Bergen Community College had been under and reaffirmed the college’s accreditation during a formal meeting on March 7.

The meeting was held to officiate the college’s good standing with all of the MSCHE’s 14 standards of excellence. The institution was found by the MSCHE to comply with the two standards it had previously failed to meet.

A meeting on October 4, 2012 found that Bergen was in compliance with both standards but that recommendations made by the MSCHE still needed to be assessed. The college was put under warning in November 2011 because an evaluation found that the college had not been in compliance with standards 7 (Institutional Assessment) and 14 (Assessment of Student Learning) of the MSCHE. Although Bergen is now in compliance with these standards, until 2015-2016, the monitoring report must be submitted to the MSCHE by October 1, 2013. The monitoring report must document a process for assessment of institutional effectiveness and achievements in program-level student learning goals. A visit could follow after the report is submitted, but there are no further visits scheduled until 2015-2016.

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The Middle States Commission on Higher Education accredits institutions of higher education across the country including Bergen Community College. Further information about the ruling can be found on their website, www.msch.org.

John J. Cross

Staff Writer

Nathan Fishman

Contributing Writer

Thank you! You're all set. If you need any more help, feel free to ask. Have a great day!
Money, Money, Money: Speech competition Doubles Cash Awards

Edwina Koch
Staff Writer

What do President Obama, Oscar winner Jennifer Lawrence, and every single one of your professors have in common? They all are well versed in the art of public speaking. Do you know that they all have something else in common as well?—they all get nervous.

Jane Phelps, assistant professor of the communications department says “most people fear public speaking more than death. When you become high and we think we are going to be judged, the experience can be nerve-wrecking.”

Phelps founded this competition six years ago to give students an opportunity to voice their opinions in a serious yet thought-provoking manner. Phelps states, “[Student affairs] were wonderful. We had boxes full of paperwork. We received an email notifying us that their form may…or may not be processed. We hand out General Scholarship applications as the students were left in the dark from the application committee, a vague message was sent out. However, they walked to their first classes after applications began to roll in, some of these same students didn’t even need a form.”

Upon the first day of school, you may remember being greeted at the door with a warm smile. “Sometimes students don’t realize that work they have already done has great content and is worth speaking to other people about, says Phelps. This year’s theme emphasizes “contemporary and cultural issues,” but in reality you can speak about anything you want with a passion for. Some of the titles of last year’s winning submissions were the following: "Modern Slavery Exists,” "Nutrition Education is Needed," and "Acres Borders." The competition and the judges are really trying to push students to become citizens of the world, while shaping their communication skills.

Phelps is judged based on organization and speech content as well as other aspects of the competition. Students will be looking for key points such as a “clear introduction” a “thesis,” “effective vocal tone,” and “strong eye contact.” The competition itself consists of three rounds, taking place on three different days. The first is the main competition, which is only about an hour long and is divided into three segments.

Last year, 88 students partook in the initial competition. They were divided into 10-15 different classrooms and presented in front of a group of 2-3 judges. In the first round, students are not allowed visual aids other than their own note cards for guidance (which Ms. Phelps encourages). After this, ten speakers will be asked to present in the second round. This is the “Awards Round.” Everyone who participates in this round is guaranteed to walk away with some sort of cash prize, ranging from $50 to $800. However, this time through, the crowd will be a little larger and visual aids such as Powerpoints, posters, and others are permitted. The final round is the Awards Ceremony.

Since the prize money has doubled, (the award total this year is $4,000 compared to last year’s $2000) Ms. Phelps is anticipating a few more participants than years prior. Probably 80-85 students will speak, she says, but she also offers a few tips to help students succeed. First off, she’s coined the phrase “Content is king—Make sure you have really good content.” Second, “Practice—People don’t always understand how much practice it takes to make something look very easy, but everyone you know who does a good job at public speaking (such as Barack Obama, Oscar winners, and your professors) have to practice. We tend to forget that to acquire a skill like this, there is a lot of behind-the-scenes practice!” This is why Ms. Phelps also encourages note cards strongly. “There is nothing wrong with bringing them as insurance,” Phelps says. “When you go over it enough times though, your brain will automatically become familiar with it.”

The registration deadline for the competition is April 3. You can register in person at W-225 from 8:00 am to 7:00 pm Mondays through Thursdays, or Fridays 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. You can also sign up online at www.bergen.edu/speechcompetition. On this website, you can also find helpful links such as Frequently Asked Questions, an overview of how to prepare a speech, as well as previous competition winner. For more information or questions, Jane Phelps, director of the competition, can be reached at jphelps@bergen.edu.

The good news, however, is that it’s all in the past now. The final deadline for the spring semester was April 3 and this time around, a new “key employee” is taking a hold of the reigns. She goes by the name of Nicole Conklin. Nicole will now be stepping in for Kathy Jennings, she will be using the same screening techniques and excel spreadsheets to review the batch of applicants for the spring. Nicole was already quite familiar with much of the process though as she had served as a grant employee with the 1-2-3 Connect Program before taking on this new role.

One main concern on many students’ minds is: Can disaster strike again? While the team is looking into purchasing a new software that can allow them to become more accessible online and less manually intensive, there are a few downsides. One is the cost. Although there are several annual allocations of funds—about $100,000 ranging according to investments) to allocate to students, the Foundation needs to be frugal when deciding how to spend money, and software can be costly.

Additionally, Laurie and Nicole explained that they also just have not found a system that achieves what they are able to complete by doing it manually. This is because most of the online processes are inhuman. “It’s like a lottery. It can immediately disqualify you due to a single answer to a question. It’s extremely black and white.” All in all, it does not complement the scholarship committee’s overall goal, which is “to give away as much money as possible to as many students as possible.”

Lost Scholarship Applications Found Under Lock and A “Key Employee”

Edwina Koch
Staff Writer

Lost are as common as the cold. There are as many as there are students. Upon the first day of school you may remember handing out General Scholarship applications at the door with a warm smile and less manually intensive, software that can allow them to become more accessible online and less manually intensive, there were a few downsides. One is the cost. Although there are several annual allocations of funds—about $100,000 ranging according to investments) to allocate to students, the Foundation needs to be frugal when deciding how to spend money, and software can be costly.

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Upon the first day of school, you may remember being greeted at the door with a warm smile from Laurie Francis and her team. They were hard at work handing out General Scholarship Application forms to students as they walked to their first classes of the semester. Weeks later, after applications began to roll in, some of these same students received an email notifying them that their form may…or may not be processed. The good news, however, is that it’s all in the past now. The final deadline for the spring semester was April 3 and this time around, a new “key employee” is taking a hold of the reigns. She goes by the name of Nicole Conklin. Nicole will now be stepping in for Kathy Jennings, she will be using the same screening techniques and excel spreadsheets to review the batch of applicants for the spring. Nicole was already quite familiar with much of the process though as she had served as a grant employee with the 1-2-3 Connect Program before taking on this new role.

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TED, creator of the popular TED Talks series, will be hosting an event on Bergen Community’s main campus on April 26th. Bergen Community College is only one of 20 schools in the country to be granted a TEDx license. Others include Harvard Law, Stanford University, and Georgetown University.

The event, called TEDx Bergen Community College, will be held in the Ciccone Theatre from 9 a.m. through late afternoon, and will be free and open to all students and residents of the area.

Students are encouraged to get involved with various options including stage design, creation of the TED logo, recording or editing video of the event, ushering, live blogging/tweeting the event, baked goods and snacks for sale/donation, and information tables. Another way an organization could get involved is to sponsor one of the speakers. Sponsoring a speaker includes meeting them, having lunch with them, and helping them before, during, and after the event.

The speeches will take place in segments, from 9 a.m. - 11:15 a.m., 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m., concluding from 3 p.m. until roughly 5:30 p.m., with short breaks at 11:15 am and 2:30 p.m. and an hour for lunch from 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Speakers will present for fifteen minutes and have backgrounds in areas including inspirational speaking, creative arts, social activism, and academia.

A full list and schedule of speakers can be found at tedxbergencommunitycollege.com but some of the more interesting names include:

10:15am Dr. Itai Sneh: Associate Professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Dr. Sneh completed his doctorate at Columbia University, holds a law and master degrees from McGill University in Montreal, Canada, and did his undergraduate work in Israel.
10:50am Dr. Suzaan Boettger: Art historian and critic based out of New York City and Assistant Professor at Bergen Community College. Dr. Boettger has penned nearly 400 articles and two full books on environmental Art.
11:30 Christina Martinez: Coordinator of the new aviation program at Bergen Community College. Mrs. Martinez is also the President of Rising Above, LLC, and has been featured on CNBC’s On The Money.
12:15pm Vincent C Paladino: 36 year student of the art of Zen, Mikkoyo Tendai Buddhism, and Martial arts, Paladino has trained with masters from around the world including Masaaki Hatsumi. Contributing columnist for usadojo.com
1:30pm Joanne Heywood Heyman: Founder of Heyman Partners, founding Executive Director of the Urban Zen Foundation, former Executive Director of The International Center in New York, and more Mrs. Heyman has devoted her entire life to philanthropy.
2:15pm Gabriel Bol Deng: One of the Lost Boys of Sudan, Bol Deng’s story is the focus of the documentary “Rebuilding Hope.” Bol Deng’s Ariang Foundation recently opened the Ariang School in his Sudanese village.
3:15pm Bergen P.R.I.D.E: Based out of our own school this organization helps furthers the needs and concerns of the LGBT community, and helps members of that same community in their personal lives.
4:15 Rene Bastian: Founder of Bella Donna Productions. Has worked on films that have been honored by famous festivals such as Sundance and Toronto, as well as films that have been nominated for multiple Academy and Grammy Awards.
5:30 Gary Lucas: A world renowned guitarist, Lucas has been described by Rolling Stone’s senior editor David Fricke as “one of the best and most original guitarists in America...a modern guitar miracle.” He has also been called “the greatest living electric guitarist,” by author and producer Dan Levin.

Any student organization or club who would like to be involved with this occasion should contact Ellen Rosner Feig as soon as possible. You can do so by emailing her at efeig@ bergen.edu, calling her at (201) 301-1243, or stopping by her office located in Pitkin, room L230.

**All speakers and times are subject to change.**
The Center for Peace, Justice, and Reconciliation at Bergen Community College was founded in 2009 through a challenge grant from an anonymous donor. The donor, however, did have specific interests, and wanted the center to focus on educating society about the Armenian genocide, which occurred between the years 1915 - 1918.

Thus, this has been the center’s mission throughout the years. The center is located at the school, to create awareness regarding the Armenian genocide and to develop skills in conflict resolution through interdisciplinary study; according to Professor Thomas La Pointe, one of the members of the center’s steering committee. Professor La Pointe stressed the importance of the center and the importance of such genocides, as they “provide a prototype for other genocides”, and pointed out that Hitler took the example of what happened in Armenia and applied it.

Members of the steering committee include Professor La Pointe, Dr. David Eichenholz, Dr. Charles Bordogna, Dr. Bonnie Macdougall, and Professor Cristoza Hase. Bergen Community College students are also currently interning with the CPRJ, who help implement programs along with faculty members.

Although the center just opened its own office at the beginning of 2013, in S-152, in Pitkin, it has initiated a large number of events since it began in 2009. Important events sponsored or co-sponsored by the center include film presentations of Kony 2012, a dialogue with pioneers of hip-hop and law enforcement about gun and gang violence, and “Fractured History, Reconstructing Identity: Degrees of Westernization in Armenian Painting and other Mediums.”

The center has also initiated its own annual Peace Scholarship, which is in its third year, challenging students to write essays or poems on conflict experiences and conflict resolution.

Eventually, the Center for Peace Justice and Reconciliation aims to establish the Armenian genocide as part of the curricula in secondary schools in Bergen County. Students who wish to know more about or support the Center of Peace Justice and Reconciliation can contact one of the professors on the steering committee, send an e-mail to cpjr@bergen.edu, or visit the office in S-152.

Opening of an Armenian Art Exhibit in 2012

Blair DeLong
Staff Writer

Standing poised and bringing an air of confidence that is only earned with experience, Emily Hunter, the daughter of the founding president of Greenpeace.org can get help you within the activist community, was able to give an unprecedented impact on how the world can change.

She called for a breed of activist. “It’s time for our nation to step forward to continue to fight for the Earth and all of its peoples,” says Hunter. According to a report published by the United Nations, the current generation of people aged 15 to 30, a number close to 3.5 billion. “Young people are the catalyst for change, we can create a new revolution in order for our world and our future,” she said. With this current generation of eco-warriors, Hunter stressed it is time to help. She finished by saying, “We can turn these ecological crises into positive movements to create a world we want.”

If you are interested in helping within the activist community, Greenpeace.org can get help you educated about the problems that are plaguing our world.

An Afternoon with Akhtar

Jasmine Amjad & Christopher O’Hanlon
Staff Writers

Born and raised in Wisconsin, a Pakistani Muslim boy has to deal with the guilt and betrayal of his culture and the expectations of his family. Akhtar, who now resides in New Jersey, is an author of the best-selling novel “American Dervish.”

The journey to become an author had many twists and turns. “I was a writer of fiction for years,” Akhtar explained. “I wrote novels at night. When asked how he is able to balance the two, his response was, “I’m an uber-nerd with no personal life.” Look for Akhtar’s play “The War Within” in the spring of 2013 to be picked up by a publisher. That play to be picked up by a publisher. That work to be picked up by a publisher.

In a post 9/11 world driven by fear, many Muslims in the media are rather unfavorable and often distorted. Rather than challenging Western misconceptions, Muslims in America argue that they have little effect on Akhtar. “People are going to misunderstand me, but that’s okay,” he said.

In addition to being a novelist, Akhtar is also a renowned screenwriter, playwright, and actor. He makes a living by screenwriting during the day, and as a writer at night. When asked how is he able to balance the two, his response was, “I’m an uber-nerd with no personal life.” Look for Akhtar’s play “Disgraced,” to begin performing in the spring of 2013. “It is set to begin playing in San Diego and looks to end up in NewYork in 2014. His film “The War Within” was nominated for an Independent Spirit Award in 2006 and can be watched on Netflix. He is also currently working on his newest novel, which tackles the theme of intercultural relationships.

Opening of an Armenian Art Exhibit in 2012

Emily Hunter Calls To a New Generation

Blair DeLong
Staff Writer

Standing poised and bringing an air of confidence that is only earned with experience, Emily Hunter, the daughter of the founding president of Greenpeace, Robert Hunter, and counter to the Westernized viewpoint of Islam. There has been backlash to the novel’s controversial views of religion, which tackles the theme of interracial relationships.

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Look Up: Top Colleges Are Within Reach

Anthony Sganga
Editor-in-Chief

Spring has arrived and many who will be graduating next month have completed transfer applications. Now apprehension is in full swing until the warm days of May arrive with letters from admissions offices. However, did you make the best choice? Many BCC students choose one of the big three state schools, Rutgers, Montclair or Ramapo, to continue their college careers. The colleges are located at a safe pick, with affordable tuition and a close locale. While both of these are true, many students neglect the other opportunities available to them, especially if they have a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

A common misconception for these students is that top tier colleges are high priced and impossible to get into. Ivy League colleges are for those who received a SAT score of 2000 or higher and an impeccable high school record. This is simply false.

Each year, a number of BCC students enter some of the nation’s top colleges, including Cornell, Yale, NYU, and Columbia. Keep in mind, it is what you have done here at BCC, not in high school, that is important. Once you have accumulated two semesters worth of credits, most colleges do not place a large emphasis on high school grades and SAT scores.

For example, Cornell University has a transfer acceptance rate of 22%. This is actually higher than the regular acceptance rate of 18% accounting to transferweb.com, a source for transfer statistics. In addition to the 22% overall rate, the number is higher depending on the college you choose. Cornell is divided up into seven colleges, ranging from the College of Arts and Sciences to an acceptance rate of 75%, to the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences’ rate of 46.8%. While the schools are a safe pick, it is not as easy, if you fall within the range, it would certainly be worth it to complete an application.

Two colleges with ties to BCC are NYU and Columbia. Keep With a 29% transfer rate and an articulation agreement with NYU’s Steinhardt School, students can benefit for full acceptance of transfer credit, a draw up to $20,000 in aid as well as a application fee waiver. To qualify, meet with a transfer professor and have them make a recommendation for you via the CCTOP website, http://steinhardt.nyu.edu/cctop/faculty.

For those looking to transfer to Columbia, our agreement with the School of General Studies offers BCC transfers an opportunity for a $12,000 scholarship. Add this to the already large amount of financial aid Columbia distributes via merit, and the question of finances once again becomes solvable.

Now that you have an idea of colleges you can attend, the difficult part comes in the application process. When applying it is important to take some things into consideration, as the application process is multi-staged and can take weeks to complete. When I began my applications back in December, I did not know nearly half of what I do now. The following are some guidelines for some tips that can make the process easier and help your chances.

First and foremost, research thoroughly. Doing research well in advance will save you time later on and will help narrow down colleges you can attend. This is where your numerous $75 application fees, accumulated up with colleges offer the best deal for your intended major, find their admission rate, and run a large number of your schools through an application fee waiver. To qualify, meet with a transfer professor and have them make a recommendation for you via the CCTOP website, http://steinhardt.nyu.edu/cctop/faculty.

Along this line, make sure you meet the required course selections. Many universities have a set of classes you must take to be eligible for transfer. This often includes a statistics course, a year of biology and a psychology course. The easiest is the most important part of a transfer application. You must know the reason you want to transfer, the program you wish to enter and campus life. The essay can be the reason you want to fit in to the college you are applying to. It is crucial. These colleges want to be sure you want to be in their program and that you are applying for the right reasons.

Lastly, be proactive. There is a lot of work that goes into applying to a selective college. While the actual application is fully online, you will need to obtain recommendations from two professors, complete a college application and send copies of your high school and college transcripts through the mail. The best way of combating this is by beginning the application two months before deadline. Rutgers, Montclair and Ramapo are all great options and will certainly open many doors, if you feel you have the grades to compete at a top tier college, go for it.

Transfer Acceptance Rates at US News Top 50 Students Entering Fall 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>US News Rank</th>
<th>College</th>
<th>Freshman Fall Transfer Rate</th>
<th>Transfer Students Accepted</th>
<th>Transfer Students Applied</th>
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<td>1.0</td>
<td>Harvard University</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
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<td>Princeton University</td>
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Correction
The Torch strives for the highest journalistic standards and accuracy. Readers are encouraged to contact us if they find any mistakes in any edition of the Torch.

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 editor@thebccc.com or delivered to The Torch office, SC-11. Such submissions must include the writer’s name, contact information and affiliation with the college. Please note that your submission should include their major; faculty and staff should include campus 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.

Transfer rates for the top 10 universities in the United States

New Jersey Press Foundation
NJPF
First Place Awards
Winner for: Investigative Reporting
First Place, Society of Professional Journalists: Breaking News
First Place, NYC Publishers Foundation Better College Newspaper Contest
First Place Awards
Society of Professional Journalists: Breaking News
Society of Professional Journalists: Editorial Writing, Best All-Around
Society of Professional Journalists: Daily Student Newspaper

Mark of Excellence
Newspaper Contest
Honing the Best of Student Journalism
Shots Article Distasteful
To The Editor:

I enjoyed reading the features in the Torch on “Give Kids a Smile” and “Professors Now and Then”, however, I was very dismayed to read the alcohol related publication on page 13. While I read the disclaimer at the bottom of the page, I believe this is entirely inappropriate as well as irresponsible to publish in a student driven paper. Bergen Community College is home to many Health Profession degrees and spearheads many health related initiatives such as the one reported on in Dental Hygiene. This page filler is to undermine the efforts of students, faculty and staff who are dedicated to health promotion. I am confident that the Torch could have found better use of this space.

Carrie Polnyj
Professor of Nursing
Professor Polnyj.

We understand your point of view, however, the shots article was published as it was near spring break and the topic was of interest to the students. Also, as many of student population, as well as administrators, professors and staff, are of drinking age, we do not believe it to be inappropriate. Also, as you pointed out, we ran a disclaimer stating that we do not endorse underage drinking. We will continue covering the efforts of clubs, programs, and initiatives such as the ones you mentioned in the beginning of your letter. Any decision of which articles to print will continue to be based on various factors including timeliness and human interest.

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

John H. Cross
Staff Writer

The U.S. military officially ended its policy of excluding women from combat positions.

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta signed an order opening 237,000 new, mainly from line, jobs. This represents a milestone in gender equality if it can be successfully implemented. Under no circumstances must we allow political correctness to undermine our armed forces’ capability.

It’s not where you start. It’s where you end up.

John H. Cross
Staff Writer

A Threat Looms Over Public Safety, Can They Weather The Storm?

Blair DeLong
Staff Writer

Face it, many students don’t like Bergen Community College’s smoking policy. They have found ways around it though, by finding spots that they think are safe from the prying eyes of BCC’s Public Safety staff. While I find myself among one of these clandestine users of tobacco products, there are more serious concerns that face this school and the student body other than second hand smoke in a semi-private area.

I took a poll of 25 students in these various spots and asked them this simple question.

What do you think of Public Safety? All 25 students went on to say they were doing a fine job. Much to our chagrin when we are caught smoking, there is the general feeling of respect for these men and women who keep us safe. While tensions do boil over at the moment a citation is issued, when all is said and done a job has been done and in the right way. With this constant adherence to the rules and laws of the school it shows the student body that Public Safety will do its job effectively. While some think the fine is too harsh, the fines are a warning, while the third and final offense will result in charges being filed in municipal court. Ryan Durocher offered a simple alternative to the current punishments, “Why not have the person lose a cigarette biff on the ground instead of fining us,” Ryan said.

While smoking rules are enforced heavily, no one is safe. But a new problem has arisen on campus. Well let’s not say arisen but has become more open in its dealings, and that’s drug use on campus. For anyone that has spent any time in an unofficial smoking area you’ve seen and heard it just as well as I have. While no smoking is enforced heavily, people are more worried if someone were to light up a blunt while on campus.

With the addition of drug use at campus we are now confronted with a new problem. The dealing of said drugs. I’ve personally seen and heard people discussing how much it would be to buy some A, or Adderall, a drug used to treat ADHD, that is abused and has the same effects cocaine does. Sgt. John LaDuc of the Bergen County Police Department said, “We know there’s going to be illegal narcotics, it’s a college.” Said on the problem of drugs being dealt at school. He informed me that “we are setting up operations to alleviate this problem.”

Now I’m not here to trash Public Safety, I think they’re doing a fine job at keeping the school safe and it’s fun trying to test new places to get my nicotine fix while dodging officers, but with the amount of drugs I’ve seen done and dealt on campus this is becoming a larger problem. I’m not telling Public Safety or even the Bergen County Police how to do their jobs, but maybe the time for additional attention is needed.

New York University

McGhee Walk-in Wednesdays:
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Bring your transcript for instant evaluation. An admissions decision will be made for those who have submitted applications by April 22. For information and to RSVP visit: scps.nyu.edu/mcghee-eventsaf

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

John H. Cross
Staff Writer

A Soviet sniper, Roza Shanina, achieved 500,000 maintained combat positions in clerical or support roles. In WWII over 80% of the positions are open to women, but this varies according to the branch of service. The Air Force has 99% openness, the Army 69% in 2012 the first female served on a Navy submarine.

Unfortunately, in our current Iraq and Afghanistan operations we have experienced over 800 wounded females, 130 killed, and some taken as POW’s. In 2012 the first female served on a Navy submarine.

Women currently represent 14% of Women in the Military and in 2012 the first female served on a Navy submarine.

Gl Jane: Military Gender Equality

TOM CLAUSON

As a transfer student, the academic institution at which you choose to complete your studies can make all the difference in your future success. The NYU School of Continuing and Professional Studies Paul McGhee Division affords transfer students the opportunity to study at a top university, and to immerse themselves in a supportive learning environment that promotes personal and professional growth.

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The national debt is continually in the media forefront, but few understand its chronic and even fewer understand its severity. Currently, $16.6 trillion is owed, or simply $52,600 per citizen. These numbers are astounding, and our elected officials never let a tragedy go to waste. Our country’s crippling debt and deficit are without debate, the most monumental that we as a nation have ever faced. Per the U.S. Constitution, Congress holds sole power to borrow money. Since our founding they authorized each debt issue separately. During World War I, a debt ceiling was introduced to allow the U.S. Treasury the ability to pay for expenditures Congress had already approved. Further, the deficit is the amount of money we borrow each fiscal year (October 1 - September 30) over the amount received in revenue (taxes). This annual deficit is accumulated debt. The country has faced the deficit since 1946, with the Civil War debt being the first. The national debt was $5.2 trillion in 2003 and forces the government to borrow $4.8 billion per day. Those numbers are ludicrous! Further, the president informs us that the sequester cuts of $85 billion will incapacitate the country. I find it inconceivable that Congress cannot isolate cuts in every Federal agency, when these purported cuts are actually not cuts at all. To clarify, each agency receives automatic budget increases every year, so the cuts represent less of a raise. That is equivalent to us finding $85 billion in our sofas. These cuts are part of the August 2011 Budget Control Act which mandates $1.2 trillion over nine years. Nine years! Few politicians, including the President, will be in office in nine years. This is political expediency and kicking the can down the road at every American’s expense.

Our debt is issued in the form of U.S. Treasury notes and divided between public held debt of approximately $11.7 trillion, that is up 75% from 2010, and foreign investors, mainly China and Japan, that hold $4.9 trillion in intragovernmental holdings. This equates to your right hand purchasing debt from your left hand which is erroneously inflating the price of the Treasury notes. To add to the wound, they rarely use normal accounting rules. Agencies such as Sallie Mae, Freddie Mac and unfunded future liabilities to Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid are not consolidated into the Treasuries books. If a business proprietor applied these deceptive accounting methods they would be indicted for fraud. The annual interest payments on the debt is a staggering $450 billion and forecasted to exceed $1 trillion by 2020. Our current debt ratio is 101.5%, as compared to the gross domestic product (GDP). GDP is the total cost of all goods manufactured in the U.S. annually. Simply, we owe more than everything we produce.

Recently, the White House has suggested the President, per the 14th Amendment, has the sole authority to increase the debt limit. In referring to the amendment, which partially contends, “The validity of the public debt of the United States... shall not be questioned”, I caution, no one man should wield that much power. Moreover, Rep. Nancy Pelosi extolled, “So it is almost a false argument to say we have a spending problem. We have a budget deficit problem that we have to address”, I think she is delusional. To be objective, both parties are equal culprits as the debt ceiling was raised 54 times during Republican administrations and 40 times throughout Democratic. It is the duty of all Americans to become educated voters to fully understand the inevitable crisis we are facing. The economic downturn has stifled us all, but as we tighten our belts the government continues to play the blame game and spend money we do not have. They willfully ignore the problem and keep cutting the alert system. If extravagant government spending ceases, then equally does political appropriations, thus resulting in less political power.

If we cannot spend what we do not have, then Congress should be bound to the same standard. Politicians at all levels are infected with the disease of greed and power. Citizens must unite and demand a balanced budget amendment. If our elected officials do not concede, throw them out!

Copyright Alert System Brings Steep Penalties for Internet Users

The newest attempt to curb illegal downloading, the Copyright Alert System, went live on February 25, 2013. When a friend introduced me to the Copyright Alert System being run by my Internet provider I began to fear that my own provider might be purportedly tracking the sites my computer visited, an invasion of privacy that had me more than a little uncomfortable. For fun I visited sites I knew were infringing, and was shocked to learn it was less a privacy smacking attempt to stop piracy and more of a mild attempt by internet providers to rag you into doing the right thing. So for those of you who haven’t read up on it yet, here’s a quick overview of the CAS and how it hopes to stop piracy.

The Copyright Alert System is not an actual law but a concerted attempt by internet providers AT&T, Cablevision, Time Warner, Verizon, and Comcast and multiple media industries to educate and dissuade their clients from illegally downloading content. The system will use a graduated response system where for every detected infringement, the subscriber will receive a strike. As the strikes begin to accumulate the means of dealing with them begin to get more and more drastic. For example, after three strikes a user will receive a warning notice. After four strikes they may receive a notice that they are in danger of losing speed. After five strikes a mitigation alert may get you momentarily penalized. The Center for Copyright Information website states “providers currently have no intention of cutting off or blacklisting subscribers.” They do however maintain the right to do so and if no alerts are received for a year then your record of notices will be cleared. In the event that you find yourself wrongly accused by the CAS you have an opportunity to challenge and the alert once it reaches the mitigation stage by requesting a review by the American Arbitration Association. This will however cost you a $35 filing fee, which will only be returned to you if your appeal is successful. For those of you worried that your providers will be tracking the sites you visit you can be at peace. Detection of piracy will be up to content owners who will be joining peer to peer sites to monitor if their property is being shared without their permission. If they believe an IP address has downloaded their property they will then alert the subscribers’ service provider. Another fear is that Wi-Fi hotspots will be constantly under attack by the alert system. However, this is unnecessary as public Wi-Fi hotspots will be exempt from the alert system. But be warned while downloading at Wi-Fi hotspots will allow you to avoid the CAS system, the RIAA and MPA are still searching for illegal downloads. For those hoping to bypass the alert system the only remaining courses of action are to use a service provider not taking part in the CAS system, or to get really comfortable doing all of your downloading at your local Starbucks. While the CAS may make getting access to media a little bit harder, it may wind up saving you thousands of dollars in fines.
Choose Your Leaders
The 2013 SGA Elections will run from April 23 until April 30. Winners will be announced on May 1. The election will be held online with students receiving an email with voting details shortly before the 23rd.

President

Pepe Romero

My name is Pepe Romero and I am running for President of SGA. I am in my second semester studying communications with a concentration in public relations. With a successful track record of more than ten years in finance, hospitality and insurance industries, I can bring experience, professionalism, and dedication to the SGA office. I am a results oriented individual who meets deadlines, works well under pressure, and can inspire those around me to unite and strive towards a common goal. Born in Bogota, Colombia, I also lived in three different countries before coming to Bergen Community College. I want to generate big changes; therefore, I became a Senator and I was immediately fascinated with the administration here at Bergen Community College. I want everyone to feel connected to the large network of professors and students that opened up these amazing opportunities in my life. I like the idea of creating a healthier environment as well as preserve the rights of students to be who they are. This starts with more regulated cafeteria sanitation and designated smoking areas where students can relax and be themselves without harming others. More resources must also be devoted to getting students the help they need to succeed in difficult subjects. These are all realistic and achievable goals, all I need is your vote of confidence.

Alexis Bravo

My name is Alexis Bravo and I am running for president. This is my second semester as a full time student at Bergen Community College. It didn’t take long for me to realize that, as part of the student body, there were issues in my college community that needed attention. I am now involved in extracurricular activities here at BCC and hold several executive board positions, including Chair of the Scholarship Committee – which raised $2,800 to revitalize the Student Government Association Scholarship Fund. Because I wrote a large part of theثقافة دينية/ Dalit Bones, I submitted my application to the Future Business Leaders of America Event Planner/Delegate for the Model United Nations. I am a result oriented person, and their involvement at SGA at all school, and creating student services in one location to alleviate concerns when trying to complete certain requirements in order to remain students. I would use my term as an opportunity to create more forms of access for current and prospective students at Bergen in order to promote a stronger student voice to be heard. I support and commit to doing what’s right for Bergen.

Vice President

George Bosch

Bergen Community College has had a large impact on my life. This school woke me up and made me realize that in order to succeed I need to change and become a better person. Being a President would allow me to give other students the life changing experience I had while at Bergen Community College. I want everyone to feel connected to the large network of professors and students that opened up these amazing opportunities in my life. I like the idea of creating a healthier environment as well as preserve the rights of students to be who they are. This starts with more regulated cafeteria sanitation and designated smoking areas where students can relax and be themselves without harming others. More resources must also be devoted to getting students the help they need to succeed in difficult subjects. These are all realistic and achievable goals, all I need is your vote of confidence.

Elif Karacayir

Keep calm and vote for Elif Karacayir! I have been studying at Bergen Community College for one year and I can’t believe how much my skills have improved over this time. I owe this to the wonderful environment that BCC has created and I now know that a majority of its students are either international or have diverse backgrounds. As an international student, I want to make everyone’s experience better. I study Business Administration with vigor, and aspire to run a positive social impact on it. I study Business Administration with vigor, and aspire to run public policy, and hold several executive board positions, including: Chair of the Scholarship Committee – which raised $2,800 to revitalize the Student Government Association Scholarship Fund. Because I wrote a large part of theثقافة دينية/ Dalit Bones, I submitted my application to the Future Business Leaders of America Event Planner/Delegate for the Model United Nations. I am a result oriented person, and their involvement at SGA at all school, and creating student services in one location to alleviate concerns when trying to complete certain requirements in order to remain students. I would use my term as an opportunity to create more forms of access for current and prospective students at Bergen in order to promote a stronger student voice to be heard. I support and commit to doing what’s right for Bergen.

Alumni Trustee

Matthew Friedberg

My name is Matthew Charles Friedberg. I am 22 years old, and am passionate about diplomacy. What initially led me to run for Alumni Trustee was my desire to serve the community and have a positive social impact on it. I study Business Administration with vigor, and aspire to run public policy, and hold several executive board positions, including: Chair of the Scholarship Committee – which raised $2,800 to revitalize the Student Government Association Scholarship Fund. Because I wrote a large part of theثقافة دينية/ Dalit Bones, I submitted my application to the Future Business Leaders of America Event Planner/Delegate for the Model United Nations. I am a result oriented person, and their involvement at SGA at all school, and creating student services in one location to alleviate concerns when trying to complete certain requirements in order to remain students. I would use my term as an opportunity to create more forms of access for current and prospective students at Bergen in order to promote a stronger student voice to be heard. I support and commit to doing what’s right for Bergen.

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Brian Castillo

“If you look good, you’ll feel good.”

Samantha

“My friend made the shirt, and I’m supporting his movement, The Gallery. You can help by going to his Twitter and Facebook @thegalleryUSA and @1twondon.

Michael Jvechin

“Hawaiian shirts and cowboy hats. And skinny jeans when you can fit into them.”

Jen Sarzo

“Create whatever you feel like in the morning and put it together.”

Felipe Itzep

“Fresh to death”
BCC is undoubtedly one of the most diverse schools around, and it’s showcased in the different styles that exist here. We thought the diversity in the students’ attire wasn’t getting enough attention. So we decided to go around campus, take pictures of students who stuck out to us, and asked them to give us a quote regarding what they’re wearing, or their dress philosophy.

Features Editor
Chika Kim

Erick Santo
Math & Science Major

“A lot of people dress according to how they want people to perceive them. My attire is obviously Spider-Man which shows that I’m a big comic fan.”

Cassandra & Johnnie Jr.

“Wear whatever’s on your mind.”

Jorge H.R.
Music Major

“If you’re gonna have any type of style don’t follow what others do, especially if it’s an influence that isn’t your own.”

Alex Lee & Kathleen Corres
Math Major, and Nursing

Major
“Clean-cut never goes out of style.”

Layout Design By,
Christine McDonald
The New “Harlem Shake”?

Kayla Cruz
Contributing Writer

For the past few weeks, there have been numerous videos on the Internet of people doing what is called the “Harlem Shake”. That name may sound familiar, as there is an old dance style called The Harlem Shake. Although both the new and old Harlem Shake have shoulder-shaking and foot moving, they are completely different. This dance can be done by anyone, even if you don’t know how to dance. You just have to move around and go crazy.

This new dance sensation has made an impact all over the country, and even the world. There are videos of people doing this in their offices, their classrooms, even while skydiving. It’s entertaining, fun and it seems many Bergen students would agree. Out of 25 students asked, 20 said they would most likely make or partake in a video, 3 said they were unsure, and 2 said they wouldn’t. One of the two students, Andres Perez, said he wouldn’t do one because “it’s not a dance at all. It’s silly and doesn’t compare to the real Harlem Shake dance.”

This brought up the question of whether people who actually lived in Harlem knew about this video, and if so, how they feel about it. A video on AOL shows different Harlem citizens’ reaction to the viral Harlem Shake videos. All of them responded negatively, saying things such as “That is not at all the Harlem Shake” and “People should stop making these videos because its somewhat making fun of their known dance.” People in this video interview even went as far as showing how to do the real Harlem Shake. So as you can see, Harlem natives are not as entertained by these videos as many people are. How do you feel about these videos?

Kayla Cruz
Contributing Writer

To Dye or Not to Dye

Jasmine Amjad
Staff Writer

All over the world, many would associate Easter with the iconic Easter bunny, pastel colors, and customary egg hunts. When it comes to this holiday, the ultimate custom of dyeing eggs will always be a favorite family tradition. In some parts of the world, this tradition is being taken to a whole new level by dyeing chicks a bright color. This has become a new trend for kids, and a concern for animal activists all over the world.

In most states, it is illegal to dye an animal’s coat. Celebrities such as Aubrey O’Day and Snooki have been known to have dyed their dog’s fur a different color. They demonstrate that dyeing the fur of an animal is not just for the holidays. Florida recently passed a bill to overturn the state’s ban on dyeing animals. This was done after a dog groomer pleaded for the overturn so he can dye dogs for entertainment value. This action has caused a huge uproar with those who believe that dyeing the fur of an animal is harmful to their health.

Some believe that dyeing chicks does not harm them. However, the process suggests otherwise. Chicks are dyed with food coloring. The food coloring is injected through the embryo during the incubation phase. The chicks are then hatched with this unnatural pigment. The alternative is to spray the coloring on the chicks after they are hatched.

Either way, the dye is not permanent. After a certain amount of time, the color will wear off and the chicks will return to their natural hue. But, once the color wears off, these chicks are in most cases abandoned, because their services aren’t needed anymore.

If you are in need of brightly colored chicks for your Easter celebrations, instead of injecting an animal with food coloring, try purchasing a box of Peeps. They’re both colorful and delicious without being cruel to any living animals.
7 Quotes to Get You Through the Week - Professor Edition

"Explore, find your passion, and follow it." Prof. Julia Peterson (Mass Media Comm)

"Have faith in yourself." Prof. Amy Baldassare (Basic skills English)

"Do what you know." Prof. Mary Senor (Surgical Tech)

"Have more confidence in yourself you are better than you think." Prof. Mark Weiner (Math)

"Work hard now and you will appreciate it later." Prof. Denise Chavez Munoz (Dental Hygiene)

"Practice makes perfect." Prof. Daniela Kitanska (Math)

“It’s all about the money. It’s all about the Benjamins.” Professor Chris Segura (Biology)

Jessica Rinzuello

EVENTS

— WORTH ATTENDING —

Here’s your opportunity to visit our beautiful NJCU campus, just minutes from the Jersey City waterfront and Manhattan. Learn about our acclaimed faculty, flexible scheduling, 41 Undergraduate, 27 Graduate, and two Doctoral Degree programs.

Open House
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Saturday, April 20
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Transfer Instant Decision Days
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Thursday, May 2 • Thursday, May 23
3:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Apply to NJCU in person and receive an immediate admission decision. Prospective transfer students must bring official transcripts from all colleges attended.

Application fee waived for Open House and Instant Decision Days attendees.
Save $100K, Here’s How
A college degree lasts a life time, but so can student loans

Edwina Koch
Staff Writer

You did it. You got into your dream school. After all the hard studying for your SATs, all that brown-nosing you did to get good teacher recommendations and not to mention the dedication you put into your everyday school work—you are finally accepted. What’s more, the school has promised to provide 100% of your needed aid. It all ties out as the following: $2,750 scholarship, $10,000 Stafford loans and a $12,000 PLUS loan. Do you take the gig? ...ABSOLUTELY NOT and here’s why:

Students today see the college process as an extremely emotional journey, which is why when students come across situations like the one highlighted above, they ignore the numbers and do what their heart tells them to. Why don’t they see the realities in the numbers attached to their acceptance letters, they would see how going to their dream school could actually be the biggest mistake they could ever make.

But it’s nearly impossible for students to see the realities in the numbers when colleges use such soothing phrases to conceal the truth. For example, the phrase “covers 100% of need” is one of the worst scams a student can fall for. Colleges make it sound like they are giving away free money, but the reality is that they are usually offering more than $30,000 worth of loans per year. All of which will eventually have to be paid back. And yet, this still counts as covering 100% of need.

And if you are one of those students who think “It’s alright. This education will get me a great job and I will be able to pay back those loans in no time.” Here is a scary statistic for you: 1 in 5 students with over $15,000 in debt defaulted (lacked payment) on their loans within ten years of graduation. 20 percent. So even though students are able to live their dream for four years at their picture-perfect school, that dream will be short-lived. Students don’t realize that debt from loans become a huge hump on their back and affects every decision made after graduation.

Often, many students have to accept a higher paying job (that they don’t enjoy), in order to pay back the money they spent to educate them to get their dream job. Now isn’t there something wrong with this picture? Isn’t college supposed to guide you toward your dream job, not steer you away from it?

Even more horrible than that, student loans stay with you FOREVER. You can claim bankruptcy countless times and it will still be there. So if you ever miss a payment on them, you can severely damage your credit score, causing even more damage to that dream future of yours. Numerous college grads have also claimed that they have had to delay getting married or starting families because they are hindered by the money they borrowed to pay for college.

These are harsh realities that guidance counselors, teachers, and even parents don’t reveal when embarking upon the college application process with students. And this is the very reason why students are finding themselves in financially troubling situations after graduation. We are sheltered from the rational, financial aspect of the process and meant to see the beautiful aspects of the different colleges such as students, location, area, buildings and reputation. Even FAFSA looks like another language to us, so many just choose not to file it at all.

Students really need more than just a guidance counselors assistance because let’s face it, guidance counselors are overworked and they just don’t have the time to consider your financial situation when helping you choose colleges to apply to. In fact, it looks better for them if you get into the top, brand-name, expensive college whether or not you can really afford it. Students cannot be sheltered any more from the financial truth about college because the fact of the matter is that if student loan debt was as great as everyone claims, it would not consume 25 percent of all consumer debt in this country. It’s that simple.

Talk to your child about aspirations they have for his life, and then look at the ways student loan payments can interfere with those dreams. And if you are a student reading this, educate yourself. Ask questions like “What can I afford?” “How can I afford it?” The answers may be found in part-time school or community college! I personally recommend the book Debt Free U by Zac Bissonnette for more information on the topic. In his words: “College is the second largest investment most people will ever make, and it needs to be treated as such. That means taking a hard look at the numbers and making a decision based on rational thought, not just fancy dining halls, elaborate marketing campaigns, or US News and World Report rankings.”

Edwina Koch
Staff Writer

Save $100K, Here’s How
A college degree lasts a life time, but so can student loans

Edwina Koch
Staff Writer

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Retrospect: BCC from 2000 To Now

By: Roger Echegoyen, Staff Writer
March 31, 2000
Web posted at 12:32 a.m. EST.

Time is an incredible concept. We can’t feel it, taste it, or hear it, but we know it’s there and we’re in the midst of it. To imagine a period of time when Bergen Community College was just a large area of trees and grass is remarkable. A time before laptops, cell phones, or idiotic seizure-like dance crazes; a time before the colonial settlement. Even though that would be a great time period to explore, this article is not about that. The time period in question is the year 2000. A time when the Playstation 2 was released, the Olympics were held in Sydney Australia, and a time when George W. Bush was first running for president. The students of Bergen Community College were at the start of a new millennium. What was Bergen Community College like during that year? What has changed during the course of thirteen years?

For starters, computers were bulkier than their modern counterparts. The older bulkier computers were used in the library and classrooms. If you ever venture out to the second level of the library, take a glance at the desks with the small wooden boxes that once held an old Window 98 computer. Do you remember a time when computers used floppy disks to save files? The floppy disk could only hold 1.44 MB of memory. Compare that to our USB reader that can hold 32 GB of memory. The USB reader can hold about 8,000 songs while the old floppy disk can hold, at most, half a minute of your favorite song!

Our current economy is hard to endure for a college student. Tuition and fees get us down when we walk to the Bursar, or when we pay online. Currently, the tuition fee for a Bergen resident is $128.55 per credit, and $270.00 per credit for out-of-county students. With the inclusion of other small fees, tuition bills could come out with a hefty grand total. In 2000, the tuition fee for a Bergen county resident was $69.35 dollars! And for out-of-county residents the fee was $144.00 dollars. Imagine if those were the rates today. We could afford new Jordans, a new iPhone, or a new video game console. Unfortunately, this is one thing that won’t be coming back.

An obvious change at Bergen Community College is the addition of the new Student Center. The new shiny, beige-tiled floors, the smell of fresh brewed coffee from the larger Dunkin’ Donuts stand (once stationed near the Ciccone Theater), and the purple colored chairs are all features of today’s center. The previous student center was just a waiting area with no comfy plush chair and one large rug. Nothing enjoyable unless you were an aficionado of rugs.

There are a few clubs that have discontinued. One of these clubs is the French Lover’s Association. To imagine a club in which fellow students watch Jean-Luc Goddard films while discussing popular French foods seems heavenly to me. A Travel and Tourism Club once held trips to new destinations during winter and spring breaks; something that could unleash the inner adventurer in all of us. Another interesting club is the Photo Clique, a club in which students shared and displayed their snapshots of the outdoors, foods, or local events they attended. These club would seem redundant today due to the popularity of Instagram, but the idea of physically sharing photos sounds more of an enjoyable sociable setting.

To imagine the change that has taken place in Bergen Community College is mind-boggling; yet, not surprising. Bergen Community College has changed to accommodate the current student population, but it’ll change again with the times. Who knows what’s in store for BCC in the near future? Maybe a game room, new computers far superior than ours, or even the inclusion of a Starbucks? (Wishful thinking...).
Laughter also works as an “internal massage”, which is explained as a hearty laugh massages the internal organs located underneath you are good to go.

Laughter For Your Health!

Baha Ibrahim
Contributing Writer

Ha! Recent research proved that laughing is resourceful for the human being’s immune system. Laughing is proved to heal the human’s emotional wounds such as sorrow and depression, optimizes your cold and emotionless personality, improves your focus on important matters, strengthens your ties and bonds with your friends and family, and is also an essential factor to ameliorate your self-esteem and confidence. Recent searches revealed that laughing can also act as medicine for the human’s inner organs, ease the functions of the immune system's weakening can cause breathing difficulty, heart diseases, mental, emotional, and physical stress, blood pressure increase, skin disorders, and most worrisome, cancer.

www.vitamins-ph.com. The picture presents a variety of diseases the immune system is able to block.

Depriving yourself from lunch and breakfast is becoming a usual excuse for diet, which normally results in unhealthy weight loss; meaning that the loss of weight is merged with possibly type II diabetes. Laughing is a healthier replacement for the immune system because it strengthens the immune system’s functions. Thus, the numbers of antibodies and “killer cells” the immune system creates increase; leading to a faster healing process, and a stronger immunity against the usual disease factors (Fungus, LDL, viruses, parasites, bacteria etc...). Laughing is needed to elevate blood pressure, and it’s applied to thin the blood and blood vessels, which acts as a vasodilator and upgrades the blood circulation.

Laughter also works as an “internal massage”, which is explained as a hearty laugh massages the internal organs located around the stomach. Laughing also warms the body temperature, especially during winter times. This is proven by the fact that blood vessels contract in order to warm the body during cold times. The exertion causes the heart to pump harder in order to force the blood in the arteries and veins.

With all these benefits, why not laugh your heart out?!
Who is Mr. Bergen?

John J. Cross
Staff Writer

On the college’s Facebook page, a “Mr. Bergen” posts information and flashback pictures, and answers students’ questions. After gaining special access to meet the mysterious Mr. Bergen, I found there is much to know about him.

Mr. Bergen posts every status and response himself. “There is an identity and you’re going to get a consistent answer because it is one person rather than a team,” he explains. He feels this keeps the page from feeling corporate and makes it different from other schools in New Jersey.

Mr. Bergen is in his office eight hours a day each weekday, but postings do not stop when he leaves. Since students are here evenings and weekends also, he must be ready to help students at anytime.

“The commitment and love for this college is the reason I take this responsibility home with me, on vacation, wherever I am,” Mr. Bergen said. Using his smartphone, he has posted during holidays and vacations from locations including Washington D.C., the Metro, and even at concerts!

Mr. Bergen came here more than five years ago to work in the public relations department. It was his idea to establish a social media outreach for the school, and his position has evolved into handling it. He wrote the plans and strategy, presented them to his boss, and went from there.

He had no power for 10 days afterwards, and could only post from his smartphone on a limited basis. The hurricane showed that Mr. Bergen will always be there to receive up-to-date information and an official response from somebody at the college,” he explains. “It was a difficult time because of disconnection but the support was great to see. The thank you messages made a big difference,” he adds to show appreciation for everyone who reached out.

Since he gets 5.  The page had an average of 38,279 reading each day that week. He had no power for 10 days afterwards, and could only post from his smartphone on a limited basis. The hurricane showed that Mr. Bergen will always be there to receive up-to-date information and an official response from somebody at the college,” he explains. “It was a difficult time because of disconnection but the support was great to see. The thank you messages made a big difference,” he adds to show appreciation for everyone who reached out.

Mr. Bergen also makes sure to keep the page fun and interesting. “It’s not going to bore you, it’s going to make you want to come back,” he says about the page’s style.

The man behind the scenes hopes to have a long future with the college. “I’ve been here more than five years and hope to be here more than 30...It means a lot to me to do this because I feel like I’m making a real, necessary contribution. Our social media helps fill a void,” he said.

Finally, what about his identity? It’ll still be a secret few know. “Who I am is less important than the information and the service and help I’m providing for Bergen Community College,” said Mr. Bergen.

Personal Counseling at Bergen Community College is a free, confidential service available to all students. Personal Counselors provide short term, problem-focused counseling in a safe and private environment. Students can discuss a variety of concerns, such as:

- Anxiety
- Anger
- Depression
- Loneliness
- Relationship Problems/ Family Issues
- Difficulties Balancing College and Personal Responsibilities
- Feeling Overwhelmed
- Stress
- Loss and Grief
- Substance Abuse

We offer a “safe place” where troubling matters can be discussed, options and goals explored, and strategies for coping strengthened in a collaborative manner.

Bergen Community College Personal Counseling

Location: Room Hs-100, The Center for Health, Wellness and Personal Counseling – Paramus Campus

Hours: Monday – Thursday 9am- 6pm & Friday 9am-4pm

Phone: 973-447-9257

Appointments are preferred but we do accept walk-in’s
**Ricardo Montero**  
**Staff Writer**

There are few books that have really engrossed me. I will not say that school is what ruined reading, but it certainly lowered my enthusiasm. Reading is the most important aspect of a game for me, as it helps to fully develop the characters and the storyline. However, on a plane ride to Australia in 2007, the idea came back to him and this time he was determined to write the book that had eluded him for almost 40 years.  

**Stephen King**

The novel is 1072 pages of intense action, suspense, and violence. The story takes place in Chester’s Mill, Maine, a little town with more secrets than initially appears. The story begins with an indestructible, semi-permeable, invisible and unknown barrier suddenly surrounding the town and immediately taking the lives of the unknowing townspople who crash into it.

Stephen King first intended to write “Under the Dome” in 1976 but felt that he couldn’t get it quite right. He tried again in 1979 under the name “The Cannibals”, but it also proved to be fruitless. However, on a plane ride to Australia in 2007, the idea came back to him and this time he was determined to write the book that had eluded him for almost 40 years. **Dale “Barbie” Barbara** as the main protagonist, an Iraq veteran who is now a short-order cook, finds himself under the dome as the chaos begins to unfold.  

Believing himself to be the savior of the town, a tyrannical Second Selectman, James “Big Jim” Rennie, will stop at nothing to achieve absolute power over a scared, dying town. When every single thing is limited and pollution has nowhere to go but the lungs of the people, life is no longer about living. It is about surviving.

With an intense writing style, “Under the Dome” will engulf you into the town of Chester’s Mill. You will be shocked by the way King takes you in his mind and makes you empathetic towards the characters of this stellar novel. And if a dome ever engulfs your town, you will at least know what to do.

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**Jeff Clarke**  
**Staff Writer**

**Dead Space 3 or Dead Space Again?**

Issac Clarke is back in “Dead Space 3”, continuing the fight to defend the human race from the dreaded Necrospawn. While the series’ third release boasts an incredibly rendered universe, the story seems to be hodge-podged and familiar. It’s dense for an action game, and it feels like you’re playing a lesser game. Over it’s 19 chapters, you may find yourself unable to put it down.

Like many video games, “Dead Space 3” is not perfect. It’s dense for an action game, at almost 20 hours to complete. For a Survival Horror from a first-person perspective, it has clear flaws. If you tried again, you might find yourself unable to put it down.

Like most video games, “Dead Space 3” is not perfect. It’s dense for an action game, at almost 20 hours to complete. For a Survival Horror from a first-person perspective, it has clear flaws. If you tried again, you might find yourself unable to put it down.

It’s not to say that this game does not have any merit. It’s got plenty. Even on the Playstation 3 the visuals are absolutely stunning thanks to Visceral Game’s Godfather engine. If you’re a PC gamer with a great gaming rig, you’d be hard-pressed to find a more beautiful game. Along with the in-game music, this is an outstanding aesthetic experience.

The addition of a co-op mode, something the first two games lacked, is both a plus and a minus. For those who looked to “Dead Space” as a classic horror game, like “Silent Hill”, it’s sure to be a disappointment. However, for those looking for an exploration game to play with a friend, roommate, or significant other, the addition of a second player is a blast. The game can be played solo, but some of the best chapters in the story are only available through the co-op mode.

On a scale of 1-10 “Dead Space 3” is a solid 7.5. It’s good, and definitely worth playing, but the flaws keep it from being great.

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**Roger Echegoyen**  
**Staff Writer**

In 2005, Emad Burnat, a Palestinian, decided to document his life with a camcorder and the assistance of Guy Davidi (an Israeli). Emad is given a camcorder to record the birth of his fourth son, Gibreel. This is a just small and serene moment before Emad decides to film the peace demonstrations committed by his fellow villagers in the small village of Bil’in on the West Bank.  

What happens afterwards is harrowing, revealing, and poetic.

During the course of five years in Bil’in, Emad travels to the nearby olive trees near his house to pick olives with his family, attends meetings to organize demonstrations, witnesses the gradual aging of Gibreel, and films the protesters near the barricades outside their village. The protesters are furious from the unlawful possession of their land. An Israeli settlement is being built on grounds of the villagers’ once owned property of Bil’in; each demonstration ends with arrests, tear gases, and dodging of bullets shot by the Israeli military. During the demonstrations, many of Emad’s cameras are destroyed. The first camera is damaged by a tear gas canister, the other four are damaged by bullying settlers, the Israeli military, and the bullet of an M16. This is the basis of the title of the film.

The resilient protesters’ five years of endurance leads them to a small victory with the demolishment of the barricades. Yet, this is just the beginning for the villagers of Bil’in; there is still one large task to complete: the demolishment of the West Bank wall. This is the Palestinians’ dilemma that is often unseen in the media. This film gives the viewer a glimpse of the hardships endured by Palestinians, and the results of their constant struggle. Images speak more than words in the film. We witness the carnage of an opposing force that has little to no reason. The film rids us of the misconception that the Israelis are peaceful on the topic of the Middle East conflict and that Palestinians are a group of ruthless, vicious people who find satisfaction on quarreling than finding a solution. There is one section of the film where Emad’s voice-overs discusses Palestinian politicians speaking out against the attacks committed on the villagers. Emad is disgusted that these men in suits are only showing support for this cause just for good publicity. The same could be applied on the opposite side of the spectrum.

The conflict should be seen in the point of view of the ones who wave their nation’s flag, the ones who endure the harmful effects of tear gas while keeping their banners raised towards the sky, and by the ones who are battling oppression with words, not with violence. Five Broken Cameras is a personal and political film that succeeds in delivering a message to the masses. Director Emad Burnat, and Guy Davidi show the world that two sides can join together to film a project that forces us to ask: Do we really know what’s going on in the Middle East? 

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**Insight Into the Life In Bil’in**

**“AN ACCLAIMED FILM FROM AN UNWELLING CAMERAMAN…COMPPELLING”**

**“SHOULD LIFE IN THE PALESTINIAN VILLAGE…THE MOVIE IS NECESSARY BEYOND…”**

**“POWERFUL… AN UNFLINCHING REVIEW OF THE PALESTINIAN EXPERIENCE”**

**“EYE-OPENING… PROBUDLY DEFAUL…A WORK THAT CAPTURES SO MANY LARGE UNREPORTED DETAILS.”**

**IN CINEMAS 19 OCTOBER**

Photo Courtesy of imdb.com
the scientific equation for career success

If you’re ready to transfer and love science, there’s no better place to take your passion to the next level than University of the Sciences. This isn’t just another university, it’s an institution known for placing graduates in prestigious, high-paying positions in the science and healthcare fields. So instead of just getting a degree, you graduate with a career, making good money, and doing what you love.

To learn more about USciences and your potential for transfer scholarships, visit usciences.edu/TransferNow.

Where healthcare and science converge.
Carlos Munoz stands out in the Bergen Bulldog Tennis team. At the young age of 17, Munoz had a short visit to college tennis at Parix Island, South Carolina for Combat Training. October 8th, while in Marine Basic Training, Munoz slipped on a line drive and was hospitalized for 20 days later. Munoz's success continued to improve on the court and in the pennant race.

Three tough months later, Munoz returned home for a mere 10-day visit; he turned 18 years old on October 8th, while in Marine Combat Training. At 19, Munoz is incredibly mature and is as equally talented in all these offensive injuries is that, Munoz reminds students, part of the college experience should not be forgotten. Carlos Munoz is a member of the United States Military, a part time worker, and a full time student athlete who supports his parents. Munoz has worked two jobs at the same time so his parents could put all their focus on his sisters, to better their education. When Munoz enrolled with the Marine Corps at 17, he knew I needed to support myself. I needed a steady build up. I wanted to pay for my own college (education) and didn't want to depend on my parents. I have two other sisters; I wanted my parents to focus on them.

With this mentality instilled, Munoz is continuing his education at Bergen Community College campuses while taking classes in the morning, training for tennis in the afternoon, and working night shifts to earn money while being a reserve for the United States Marine.

When asked about finding the time and balance for everything, he simply replied, "I sleep about 4 hours a night. But really, I just love playing tennis. It's one of my biggest passions. I know I have to work for what I want. This time taught me to adapt well. When I got there, I had to work to get things done with people from all over the country, I have two other sisters; Munoz has worked two jobs at the same time so his parents could put all their focus on his sisters, to better their education. "When I enlisted with the Marine Corps at 17, I knew I needed to support myself. I needed a steady build up. I wanted to pay for my own college (education) and didn't want to depend on my parents. I have two other sisters; I wanted my parents to focus on them."