



## Local Screams are Heard

**KARINA QUINTERO AND  
JAMES TURNER**

*LAYOUT EDITOR AND CONTRIBUTING WRITER*

By now, we have all heard of some kind of rally or protest going on here, there, and everywhere. Not just all around the nation, but all around the world, voices are yelling to be heard.

Protests like the ‘Women’s March’ and the ‘Not My President’s Day’ protest coming up on February 20th have been impacting our nation and communities. The most recent cause for these protests has been President Trump’s attempt to enact a travel ban. These protests and rallies are happening practically in our own backyard.

On the evening of February first, the City of Paterson, NJ had its own rally. The Solidarity Rally started at Gould Park to Main Street.

Carol Melendez, a former Bergen student who attended the rally, said she found out about the rally through her friend Tyler Brenes.

Carol said, “He and Aida Elsalma bounced ideas off one another and they made it happen.”

Carol also mentioned that Aida, who was one of the leaders of this rally, is Muslim and is very involved with her Palestinian community. Silk City Socialist was the organization that hosted the rally that brought on about 250-300 people from different backgrounds and beliefs.

In response to this, Carol said, “That is America. That is my America. That’s what we stand for. That’s what I’m proud of. That night was the night I was happy; we were family. We all were human. We shared moments where we were human. We all just want to be treated equally.”

Another former Bergen student and rally attendee, Adriana Perez, described the feel of the rally.



Former Bergen students (from left to right) Adriana Perez, Carol Melendez, and Mirella Perez holding up signs at rally while fellow attendee captures photo. // Courtesy of Adriana Perez, Jonathan Orozco

“It was a small group of people at the beginning, but as time progressed, the multitude grew and so did the positiveness in the atmosphere,” Adriana said

She also mentioned that being at this rally made her realize that there are other people who want good justice for this nation filled with hard working people.

At the rally there were chants against President Trump and in support of the Muslim community, Black community and Latino community. There was unity in the air.

On February eighth, there was an anti-hate rally at Bergen Community College, which Carol and Adriana also attended.

NorthJersey.com mentioned the speeches and the powerful positive

impact it had on the attendees. Tristan Anderson, who is a Bergen student, was mentioned on NorthJersey.com because of the positive response of the crowd following his impactful speech.

When asked what they would like President Trump to know, Adriana and Carol had a different response with the same feeling.

Adriana said, “More than know, I would like for Trump to understand that there are still others who haven’t lost hope for a better America filled with so much diversity and with so much to learn from each other. With the banning of Muslims and other immigrants, there would be less enrichment of culture in the U.S.A. I mean, presently, if today you

would like to have some Spanish food and tomorrow, a middle eastern dish, then we are very fortunate to have these authentic places with unique people just around the corner. We don’t have to travel all the way to those countries and, besides, I don’t believe they would welcome someone who doesn’t welcome them. There shouldn’t be more discrimination in this nation. Racism encourages more violence, but thank goodness that there are still others who believe in justice and don’t easily give up on this cause.”

However, Carol had few words for President Trump, “What would I like trump to know? To f\*\*\* off.”

## Governor Chris Christie Visits Bergen to Acknowledge New Bergen County Prosecutor



Gurbir Grewal is sworn in //NorthJersey.com

**HEINEKEN QUEEN**

*CONTRIBUTING WRITER*

On January 12, Governor Chris Christie paid a visit to Bergen Community College for a ceremony commemorating Gurbir Grewal’s installation as the new Bergen County Prosecutor.

Gurbir Grewal, a 43-year-old resident of Glen Rock, joined the United States Attorney’s Office (USAO) and worked as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Criminal Division in New Jersey

from 2010 to 2016. He was nominated by Governor Chris Christie twice within the past three years: once in 2013, though the Senate did not schedule a hearing on the nomination, and the second time in 2016 when he became an acting Bergen County Prosecutor before his installation.

Grewal has established a compelling profile with regard to the legal system, undertaking numerous cases since he worked in the USAO.



Governor Christie in front of a crowd //Flicker

When Grewal was nominated the second time, Governor Christie said, “With his experience as a federal prosecutor in New Jersey and New York, Mr. Grewal has the right credentials and background to be the chief law enforcement officer for Bergen County.”

Grewal speaks Hindi and Punjabi, and is the first South Asian in New Jersey to become a county’s top law enforcement officer. He has also worked side by side with Governor Christie himself when the governor was still an acting Bergen County Prosecutor.

In 2015, there was a case in which Grewal represented the government

against the president of a New Jersey textile company who was sentenced to prison for defrauding \$4 million from its investors. He was also the lead prosecutor of the United States vs. Weinstein case, a \$200 million Ponzi scheme, where the defendant was sentenced to 24 years of imprisonment.

The ceremony of Grewal’s installation was held at the Anna Maria Ciccone Theater at 3:30 p.m. in Bergen Community College’s main campus in Paramus. There was a strong security presence and approximately 500 guests in attendance, including municipal, county, federal and state officials.





# NEWS

## The Torch

### BCC Changes Shuttle Bus Schedule

LESHAY JONES  
News Editor

The 2016 Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame inductions were as star Bergen Community College started off the year with a lot of new things. One of those new things involved schedule changes to the shuttle bus rides that a number of students rely heavily on.

Bergen offers a shuttle that transports students, faculty, college employees, and even the general public. Buses run to and from the Meadowlands and Paramus campuses from Monday through Friday. It is an effective form of transportation for students who have classes in both locations. The best part is, it's free.

According to Rachel Lerner Colucci, dean of Student Life and Conduct, the shuttle schedule was changed due to the expiration of the college's grant in December of 2016, which funded the transportation of hundreds of students and staff.

But there is no need to fear; Bergen immediately formed a new contract with the shuttle bus company in January of 2017. Though this caused some changes in the schedule, the community will, fortunately, still be able to have easy access to the shuttles.

"Bergen Community College remains committed to offering this valuable service which provides transportation between the Paramus and Meadowlands campuses for members of our community," said Dean Lerner Colucci.

The schedule was also changed in order to more accurately reflect the needs of student ridership, according to Dean Lerner Colucci.

Students can find the new shuttle bus schedule online on the Bergen Community College website. The schedule can also be found in various locations throughout the main campus, including near the main entrance of the Pitkin Education Center and outside of the Student Affairs Leadership Suite. Additionally, it can be found in room L123 on the Meadowlands campus.



#### Monday - Friday

- Free!
- Available for students, faculty, and staff
- Accessible (ADA-compliant)
- Questions (e.g.: bus schedule...)?  
Contact (201)447-7215.
- Issues (e.g.: safety concerns...)?  
Contact Office of Public Safety at (201)447-9200

#### Pick up/Drop-off Locations

- Paramus – Pitkin Education Center
- Meadowlands –Parking lot building entrance

The bus will not run on the following Holidays:

- Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup> – President's Day
- Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup> - Good Friday

#### Winter/Spring 2017

##### Departure Times\*\*

To Meadowlands	To Paramus
7:00 a.m.	7:30 a.m.
8:00 a.m.	8:30 a.m.
9:00 a.m.	9:30 a.m.
10:00 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
11:00 a.m.	11:30 p.m.
12:00 p.m.	12:30 p.m.
1:00 p.m.	1:30 p.m.
2:00 p.m.	2:30 p.m.
3:00 p.m.	3:30 p.m.
4:00 p.m.	4:30 p.m.
5:00 p.m.	5:30 p.m.
6:00 p.m.	6:30 p.m.
7:00 p.m.	7:30 p.m.

\*\*NOTE: Winter/Spring 2017 Departures Times are effective from January 3, 2017 through May 9, 2017.

New Shuttle Bus Schedue//bergen.edu

### BCC introduces Drone Program

CHRISTOPHER MOLINA  
STAFF WRITER

In March of last year, the Federal Aviation Administration approved BCC for the use of drones, making Bergen one of only three community colleges in New Jersey and one out of 21 colleges in the United States to be approved, with the help of BCC President, B. Kaye Walter and many others.

However, since it been passed, there have been no sightings of drones on campus. Until recently where it has been announced that Bergen will offer a public information session on its drone pilot training classes in February. So far, no information has been given about the types of drones to be used, how they will be distributed, and where they will operate.

Larry Hlavenka, BCC's Managing Director of Public Relations, states, "we're not actively doing the flight classes yet."

The continuing education ground classes which began in December, will be taking in people who are involved in law enforcement and who have an interest in technology will be the ones most likely to use the drones. The session will be available to the public on Saturday, Feb. 4 from 10 to 11am. It will be held in the



Aerial view of Bergen Community College //Courtesy of BCC

Technology Education Center on the main campus at Paramus, 400 Paramus Road. For more information, please contact rcrisafi@bergen.edu.

Under the College's Division of Continuing Education, Corporate and Public Sector Training, the two-part drone class, that was launched in December offers Bergen students to obtain a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) remote pilot's license.

There is a requirement for all people to wanting the pilot the drones. The course includes a

FAA exam preparation as well as hands-on flying experience after students complete and pass the exam. Kids and teens will also be able to be a part of the drone program at Bergen Community College during their annual summer camps.

By the end of 2025 nearly 2,000 job in New jersey could be created according to Estimates given by the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International. along with an additional of more than 100,000 new jobs nationally.

In 2017 alone the FAA estimated that nearly five millions drone will be sold, double the amount of last year's sales.

The purpose of the drones is to train students in photography, and videography. Classes associated with media, film and science will also benefit from the use of drones. Students involved in STEM programs, have already taken an interest in drone technology and are especially interested to this step to grow."The intent is to be offer

training and in what is going to be a billion-dollar industry going forward," said Larry Hlavenka.

Drones are a very exciting piece of technology. According to a report from The NPD Group's Retail Tracking Service, with numbers sold up to 224% from April of 2015 to April of 2016. Advancements like these call for BCC to also make huge changes which will be beneficial for students and their careers.



# WOMEN’S MARCH ON NYC

CHRISTOPHER MOLINA  
STAFF WRITER

On January 21, New York City held one of the largest protests the state has seen in years. Crowds gathered at One Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, to speak out against Trump’s harsh rhetoric against women and the LGBT community.

Thousands participated in the Women’s March in New York City, many of whom came from all over the city and across the country. According to official sources by the NYPD an estimated 400,000 people participated in the march.

Police say that it stretched 15 blocks and that Fifth Avenue was so clogged, many marchers could not even move forward.

When asked about the reasons behind protesting, many involved pointed out disappointment in Trump and his administration, namely, its conservative stance on politics concerning the existence of global warming, women’s rights, LGBT rights and his views on migrants entering the U.S.

“ I know that we have to stand up for what is going on after the election, and we need people to come out here and stand up,” Protest monitor Chana Nesco said.

With a march this big, it’s most likely that it will attract attention, which left people worrying about whether it would lead to chaos on the streets.

According to one of the protest monitors, as many as 1000 protest monitors joined the march in order to observe, check and keep everyone at the event on their best behavior.

“Our job is to make sure everybody is behaving and make sure that everybody’s civil rights are being observed and maintained.” said Nesco.

With a march that attracted thousands of people, it eventually caught the attention of a professor from Bergen Community College. Physics professor Thomas Jewel attended the march along with his wife, making this their first time participating in a protest like this.

His reason for attending was in regard to discrimination and reproductive rights.

In his experience, Jewel said, “it was terrific [and] I found it fascinating to see all the signs and the people and how everything was very peaceful.”

“We just felt that this is the time. This particular moment in history is an important time to be united” said Jewel.



Protester holding sign during the Women's March on New York City. //WikiMedia



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JAN. 3 – FEB. 28

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# The Torch

THE TORCH, a member of the Associated Collegiate Press and the College Media Association, is the official student newspaper of Bergen Community College. The purpose of THE TORCH is to report on the events at BCC and the local community, and to offer the BCC community a forum for expression. The opinions expressed in THE TORCH are not necessarily those of THE TORCH. All the materials submitted to THE TORCH become property of THE TORCH.

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## CORRECTIONS

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 eictorch@gmail.com or delivered to The Torch office, SC-111. Such submissions must include the writer's name, contact information and affiliation with the college. Students 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.

The Torch offices are located in Room SC-111D, 400 Paramus Road Paramus, NJ 07652-1595 201.493.5006/5007 eictorch@gmail.com

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# MEET THE NEW E-BOARD



The new e-board. //Rebecca Karpinski, Jonathan Orozco

**ADRIANNA CARABALLO**  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

As a new semester begins the old editorial board members begin to leave and new ones eager to fill their shoes take their place in the Torch. It has been like that since the very beginning of this college newspaper.

Unlike a company you do not get years to serve that company, you are given a few semesters and it is up to you to make the most of it and then the cycle of change begins again.

I have recently been appointed the job of Editor-in-Chief and am honored to serve the Torch and it's members to the best of my ability.

Before my appointment the Torch faced an issue that they were not prepared for. The intended EIC, Noura Dakka had to leave her position due to unfortunate personal circumstances.

After that George Guerra and Iness Rabah took the reins and did what they could to get us back on track.

Fast forward a bit, Noura is back and prepared to write again for the paper. I now am taking the place of George and Iness, who I must say, are role models for what to do in a rough situation.

There is no time to panic or cry about a situation you don't like or didn't ask for; the time is to take action. Accompanying me in this new E-board are several talented people with both determination and heart.

I'd like to first introduce you to Jonathan Orozco. He is a photographer, an experienced website builder and he owns his own business. He is a bottomless pit of ideas and is the most ambitious person I've ever met.

He, as well as I, and the other E-Board members intend to create a series of projects to improve the Torch. One of our current projects is the creation of a youtube channel to expose the Torch and it's members to both broadcasting journalism and print journalism.

Then there is Karina Quintero, the layout editor. She motivates herself to sit at a desk for several hours to make the paper a reality.

Helping her is our new photo editor, Rebecca Karpinski. This is her 4th semester at BCC and her 3rd semester with the Torch. She is a cartoonist and loves to sing, draw, and march drum corps.

Our three section editors are Leshay Jones, news editor, Alyssa Blundo features editor, and Anthony Khelil, sports editor.

Anthony is a returning sports editor. As for Leshay and Alyssa they are both new to the Editorial board.

Leshay has been a journalist since she was a sophomore in high school, where she was the EIC. She hopes to bring her experience and dedication to this paper.

Alyssa hopes to shine more light on events happening at Bergen to keep the students informed.

Thea Oh, or "Thea OH!" as I like to say it, is our new copy editor. She is a hard worker and kind hearted, which is good when picking apart someone's grammar.

Forever Holmes is our new ad manager, who keeps the paper running with her business skills.

Last but certainly not least is Adam Grassani, the new co-editor. This is his sixth and final semester at Bergen Community College. He is currently the longest serving member of the Torch. His goal is to provide that veteran presence and lead by example.

We all hope to bring what we know and our ideas to the Torch to make it an outstanding paper.

# “Stay Focused”

Dear Student Body,

I hope that everyone has had a great winter break spending time with family, friends and significant others. I'd like to wish everyone a very warm welcome back to school. My message this month is relatively straightforward and simple. Stay focused and remember why you're here.

There's no doubt it's tough getting back into the groove of things and I promise you that you are not the only one on campus who feels stressed out. The best advice that I can give is to find what drives you internally and focus on it. Whether you'd like to make your family proud, hope to land a high paying job, or simply because you truly enjoy what you're studying, identifying and channeling that inner motivation is the key to helping you achieve your goals. For those of you who are graduating at the end of the Spring semester, I'd like to offer you an early congratulations along with an additional piece of advice. Don't fall victim to Bergen's version of "Senioritis". Keep up on your studies and finish strong. Understand that the sacrifices you make now will pale in comparison to forever having a great GPA on your college transcript. Think long term, think big, plan accordingly and you will accomplish all of your life's goals.

Have a great rest of the day, a great rest of semester and good luck to everyone!

Sincerely,  
President David DeLizio



SGA President David DeLizio//Jonathan Orozco

**NJPF**  
NEW JERSEY  
PRESS FOUNDATION

First Place Awards: General Excellence, Layout & Design, Editorial Writing, Biography/Personality Profile, Enterprise/Investigative Reporting, Photography, 2014-2015  
Winner for News Writing, Arts and Entertainment/Critical Writing, Features Writing, Sports Writing, Overall Website, 2014-2015  
New Jersey Press Foundation Better College Newspaper Contest

First Place Awards  
Society of Professional Journalists: Breaking News Editorial, Editorial Writing, Best All-Around Non-Daily Student Newspaper







*Bergenstages: Oh,  
Coward!*  
pg. 7



Black History Month  
is Here!  
pg. 9

# OPINIONS

## The Torch

### Winterim at BCC

#### FOREVER HOLMES

*Ad Manager*

The Winter Session at Bergen Community College is an eight day program through which students can earn three college credits by taking classes from about 10 A.M. to 3 P.M. This sounds challenging because you're spending your Winter break studying, doing homework, and attempting to learn a twelve week course at a faster pace and in a shorter time frame.

In order to finish your degree faster, it is ideal to earn credits before the Spring semester starts. Otherwise, your studies will seem pretty overwhelming later on.

The bright side of Winterim is that it is now available on all three campuses (Paramus, Meadowlands, Hackensack).



*BCC student center in winter//Rebecca Karpinski*

Most college students don't plan on attending school right after being overwhelmed with the Fall semester, and will usually plan on catching up on sleep, binge watching their favorite tv shows, spending time with family, or working extra hours at their jobs.

These activities don't apply to the students who are taking Winterim because, though the Fall semester is over, the program's workload is twice as heavy because they have eight days to try to complete all the work you would typically receive in 12 weeks.

Not taking the proper amount of time to rest can cause sleep deprivation. According to NPR, "Sleep has a big impact on learning. And not just when you do it in class. Sleep deprivation affects memory, cognition and motivation, and the effects are compounded when it's long-term".

Winterim can be very effective for students who are interested in finishing sooner than expected but can also be a hindrance if students aren't pacing themselves or allowing free time while striving to achieve their degree.

## Back to the basics

#### ADRIANNA CARABALLO

*EDITOR IN CHIEF*

I, as well as many other young adults, relied on pizza pockets and frozen chicken wings as a primary food source when I was younger. When coming home from school I would throw my backpack on the floor and immediately head to the freezer.

I was so excitedly to scrape off the freezer burn and finally get some sort of substance into my body after a long day of middle school. Now, as a college student, if you hand me a pizza pocket I'll throw up.

I know the saying that "food is food" but that isn't quite true. Food shouldn't just be something that you shove in your face, it should be enjoyed, savored, and most of all, it should be good. So what changed?

My school hours didn't get shorter, they got longer, so time was not something I had much of in the first place. What changed for me was a mix of becoming sick of sub-par frozen food and being constantly influenced and inspired.

We live in a world where anything can be found right at your fingertips. Instagram, Facebook, twitter, and other social media sites are king. One thing they have in common are people who love food.

I can't go on Instagram without seeing pictures of food or a tutorial video on how to make the food being shown. I'm glad that I've been bombarded by these tantalizing pictures and videos of food. When seeing a video



*This TV dinner is not the way to satisfy your appetite.//Flicker, Daniel Oines*

being broken down so easily I think, "Hey, I can do that too."

Now of course cooking is not as easy as the videos seem to make it with their video editing wizardry, but it definitely can be done and the results are worth the time and effort.

There are even apps designed to help you make quick satisfying meals. Sun basket offers fresh organic ingredients delivered to your home, along with recipes to go with them. Now, it sounds pretty good but meals cost around 11 dollars per person, and delivery costs around six dollars per week. The first week is free for complementary purposes but after that a 2- person plan costs about 60 - 70 dollars.

It sounds wonderful in theory but a college student, such as myself, does not have the money for that. Blue apron offers something very similar, again fresh ingredients are delivered

directly to you. The two-person plan is nearly 60 dollars per week, the family plan is over a hundred dollars per week.

So are these pricey food services worth it? I'd say they are not. I'm not saying to go back to the frozen food but a subscription is not needed in order to make good food.

Here is my advice, find a few recipes that will be both delicious and easy to make, it is even better if those recipes share ingredients. Buy what is needed to make them on weekly bases and practice making the recipe.

Some easy recipes for after school is fresh guacamole and chips, loaded potato skins, and double battered chicken poppers. Making food does not have to be a huge waste of time, it can be just as enjoyable as the eating process.





*BCC Wrestling  
Making an Impact  
pg. 15*

*Yordono Ventura  
Passing  
pg. 16*



# FEATURES

## The Torch

# BCC Graduation Survival Guide

**ALYSSA BLUNDO**  
FEATURES EDITOR

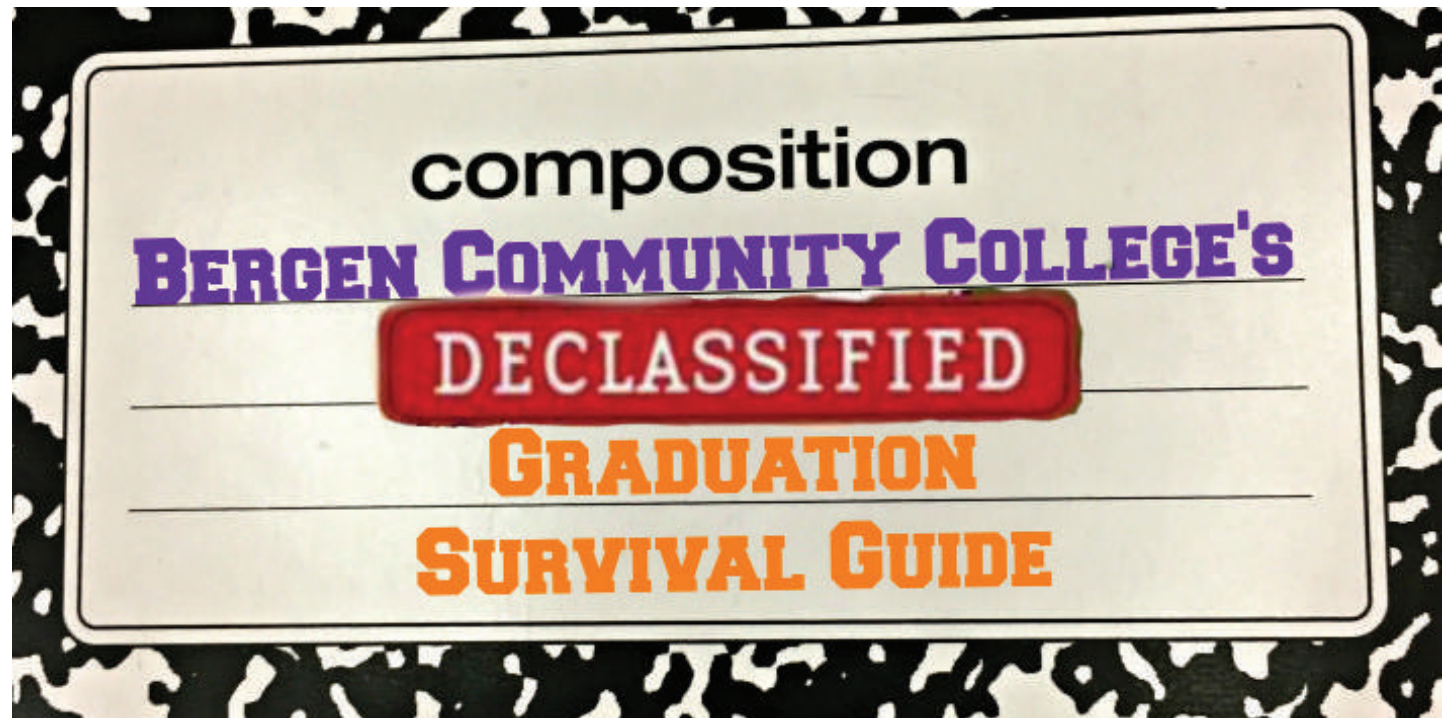
Throughout your years at Bergen Community College, you have dreamed of receiving your Associate's Degree on Thursday, May 18th 2017. Though it is already February, here are some tips and tricks that can help you get through the next four months and cross the MetLife Stadium Stage in no time.

**Show School Spirit:** Before leaving Bergen, go to a basketball game, track meet, or a wrestling match. Even check out the next play or concert. Showing your school spirit means that you care about what is happening on campus. Plus, your college experience will be more fun and worthwhile.

**Join Your Club's Eboard:** If you are passionate about a club on Campus, take the opportunity to run for an Eboard position, such as: President, Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer. This would be a great opportunity to show your organizational, people, and communication skills. Not to mention, it will look great on any resume.

**Attend an event:** Going to an event on campus can foster friendships with those who share common interests. By exposing you to different cultures and lifestyles, campus events can open many doors for you as well.

**Pass your Classes:** To graduate, you need to pass your classes. When it comes to graduation, grades matter. It can launch you towards your goal or it harm your chances of reaching that goal. With grades like B's or higher you are on way to graduate, but if you



*The toughest part of college is graduating on time, but with these tips you will be ready. //Rebecca Karpinski*

have C's or lower, your chances of graduating are slim.

**Phi Theta Kappa:** Inductees of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society will sit in the front row and will be the first to graduate. They will also wear PTK regalia at the Colleges' graduation, and will receive an official seal of Phi Theta Kappa on their college diplomas. Students will also receive a notation of membership on their college transcript.

**Take transfer scholarship opportunities:** If you plan on transferring to a 4 year college, try applying to many scholarships. At Bergen there

are thirty three opportunities, such as: Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, PTK, Drew University, Rutgers, Monmouth, Berkley, and Rider, to name a few. Plus it will look great on your transcript and resume.

**Go to Grad Fest:** Before graduating, students will spend at least an hour at the Student Center to prepare for commencement. Students will receive their regalia, sign up for the Alumni Association, take graduate portraits, visit the Career and WorkForce Development Center, and purchase a class ring, diploma frame,

or other memorabilia. Students can also decorate their caps as well.

**Graduate:** Most importantly, graduate with your degree on Thursday, May 18, 2017 at MetLife Stadium. If you are not graduating or not yet ready, that's completely okay. You can take as many classes as you can without rushing.

By going through each step, you will make strides both academically and socially. You will be well on your way to many successful endeavors.

# Finding Jobs for College Students

**REBECCA KARPINSKI**  
Photo Editor

Working while in college can be tough, especially for community college students. Some students have to work before school, after school, leave class early to go to work on time, and some students have even cut class just so they can get to work on time.

**Choosing the right part-time job** for you can make all the difference though. Here are some factors to consider when choosing a part-time job among your class schedule and other extracurriculars.

**Location is a big factor.** Finding a job that is easily accessible to you will greatly influence your reliability as a worker. If you have a car, you have a wider range of possibilities, but most college towns offer plenty of part-time jobs that are close to campus. If you have a co-worker who live close by or goes to the same college as you too, it's always good to try to carpool as much as you can.

**Schedule around your school schedule.** Be sure to check out jobs with preferred availability during the times you can work. Some positions might require night shifts, early morning shifts, weekends, or even holidays. Be sure you can commit to those shifts that the businesses need before taking on the



*School and work can be hard to balance. //Rebecca Karpinski*

job. If you can customize your work schedule that best fits to you and your school schedule, It can really help with any future conflicts you may have.

**Are you working for passion or pay?** Some jobs may have both, but the range of pay in part-time jobs is wide. Aim to find a job that is both enjoyable and offers the income that you need.

If you are looking to gain experience in an industry of your interest, you might find yourself sacrificing pay. Working as an intern for a startup, local business or a big company may be more beneficial for your dream career after graduation.

**Having the right experience** you need to work at some part-time jobs is very important to note. Find jobs that you are most definitely qualified for and save yourself some application time.

Yes, finding a job as a community college student is very hard and time consuming, but it's worth it once you get your first paycheck. It's a pretty great feeling being able to have money to spend at college, but the only way to obtain money is to obtain a job. It's time to get inspired, and find a job!



# Bergenstages: Oh, Coward!



*Oh Coward! rehearsal. //Courtesy of Jim Bumgardner*

**REBECCA KARPINSKI**  
Photo Editor

Working while in college can be tough, especially for comBergenstages is to perform Oh, Coward!, under the direction of Jim Bumgardner and musical direction of Jess Abrams, in the Ender Hall Lab Theater starting from mid February into early March.

Oh, Coward! is a musical revue done in two acts devised by Roderick Cook and containing music and lyrics by Noël Coward. Songs include, 'London Pride,' 'Chase Me, Charlie,' 'Mrs. Worthington,' 'If Love Were All,' 'Dance Little Lady,' 'Why Do the Wrong People Travel,' and 'Mad Dogs and Englishmen.'

The musical ensemble consists of only eight talented young cast members in which are four men and four women. Starring Bergen's own Angelina Aaragon, Emily D'Onofrio, Kevin W. Bergen, Matthew Rella, Ryan Smith, Sarah Klausner, Victoria Lopez, and Wally Villanueva.


"It's like a cabaret of all of Noël Coward's work" says cast member Sarah Klausner, "there's not really a plot, it's more like song after song after song. It's a really fun experience because it's different than the other musicals I've been in".

"I feel so lucky to be working with students and enjoying them discover how wonderful the world of Sir Noël Coward is." Says Bumgardner. "One of my favorite quotes of his is 'For I believe that since my life began the most I've had is just a talent to amuse.' We are so fortunate to be able to amuse our talents!"

The musical is filled with so much young amazing talent, great staging, acting, and upbeat music that will have you dancing in your seats and will most definitely put a smile on your face.

The show will be performed on February 17th, 18th, 23rd, 24th, 25th, and March 2nd, 3rd, and 4th at 7:30pm also February 18th, 25th, and March 4th at 2:00pm in the Ender Hall Lab Theater. You can either purchase tickets online at <https://tickets.bergen.edu/> or in person in room A-130.

Bergen Community College presents  
the Bergenstages production of



## COWARD!



**Words and Music by Noël Coward**  
 Production Devised by Roderick Cook  
 Directed by Jim Bumgardner  
 Music Directed by Jess Abrams

February 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, March 2, 3 and 4, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.  
 February 18, 25 and March 4, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.

Ender Hall Lab Theatre

**Tickets:** \$15 general admission, \$10 seniors (65+) and the College community, \$5 students

Reservations are highly recommended at [tickets.bergen.edu](https://tickets.bergen.edu/) or visit A-130.  
 For information or reservations, please call (201) 447-7428.

## Final Fantasy XV: A Flawed Masterpiece

**ADAM GRASSANI**  
Co-Editor

Ten years in the making, Square Enix has finally released Final Fantasy XV, hoping to restore the acclaimed RPG series' former glory after the negative reception of Final Fantasy XIII. In the game, you play as Noctis Lucis Caelum, the prince of the peaceful kingdom of Lucis, the last bastion standing before world domination by the military empire of Niflheim. When Lucis is defeated in war and its crown city Insomnia falls into the hands of Niflheim, Noctis must embark on a journey around the world of Eos with his friends Prompto, Gladiolus, and Ignis, to reclaim his throne.

Final Fantasy XV is a major step away from the series' traditionally turn based system. Instead, it is an action RPG, similar to Square Enix's Kingdom Hearts series, though this game is more focused on strategy than action. During combat, you can switch between four types of weapons of your choosing, even during the middle of a combo. So, you can start off by landing multiple strikes with a one-handed sword, then finish with a powerful strike from your greatsword. Magic is also changed as you'll now use it to land warp strikes, dodge attacks, point warp to safety, use royal arms and special weapons found throughout the world, and activate Noctis's limit break, Armiger. Elemental magic is still present, but must be found in deposits throughout the world where you absorb and craft it for use.

The game is presented in 14 chapters and is essentially divided into two parts. The first is open world, wherein you'll travel around the expansive kingdom of Lucis, either through renting chocobos or mostly



*Did Square Enix make Final Fantasy great again? //staticflickr.com*

by driving the Regalia car, which you can control manually or let Ignis drive. Driving manually, however, is heavily restricting and offers little that driving automatically doesn't. You'll end up doing many side quests and hunts which will reward you with experience points, items and gill, the currency of Eos. Dangerous enemies known as daemons come out at night, so you'll want to either make camp at a haven or check into a lodge for the evening. Furthermore, you don't officially level up or gain the experience points you earn until you do this. You'll also want to eat stat-boosting meals, which are served throughout the world or cooked up by Ignis.

This leads into the greatest aspect of the game from both a story and gameplay perspective, which is the feeling of being on a road trip. Going out and exploring the world, completing sidequests & hunts, participating in mini-games such as fishing and chocobo races, as well as completing the aesthetically pleasing dungeons is an experience that few games can match. The dialogue and interactions between the four guys is excellent as

you'll either learn more about them or laugh hysterically at the humor it can provide.

After Chapter 8, it becomes much more linear and story driven as you leave the Lucian continent on a boat to the city of Altissia and afterward, board a train ride throughout Niflheim taking you to the empire's capital. You'll learn more about the lore of Final Fantasy XV during this time and what you are truly fighting for. It is guaranteed to get you to think and speculate. It is also where the most character development occurs as the four go through the most adversity at this point in the story, both as individuals and as a group.

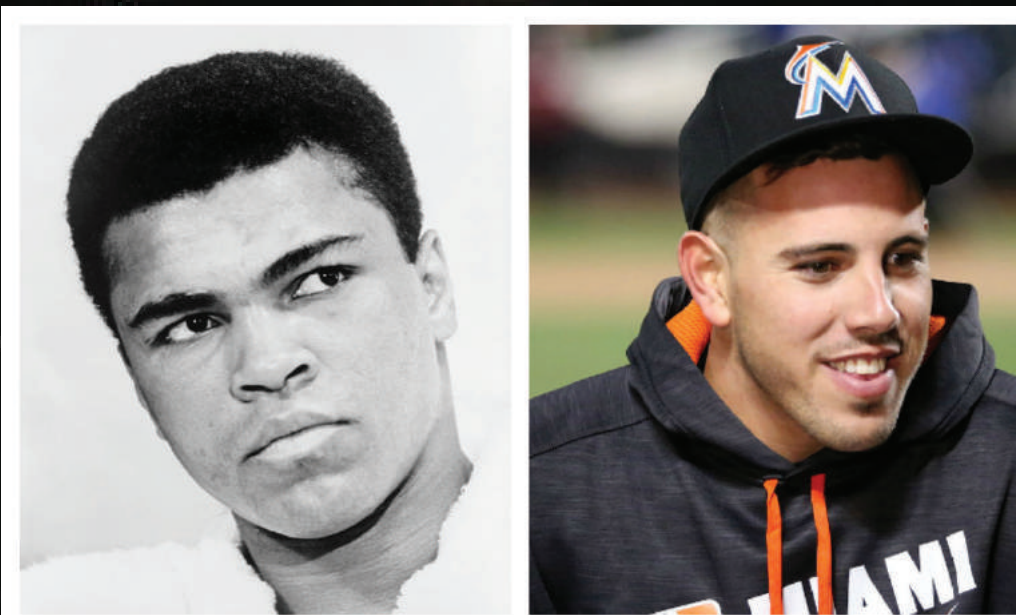
However, as great as the story is, it's also where the game is most flawed. A large portion of the story occurs offscreen, including major plot points. Furthermore, when a major point is brought up, it's not uncommon for it to be never mentioned again like it's nothing. As a result of this, a number of characters are not fleshed out nearly enough as they should be. These problems hold Final Fantasy XV's story from being considered a major positive of the game.

Thankfully, Square Enix has announced that they have plans to expand the story through DLC updates where they will add more cutscenes. Episodes will be introduced where you will play as different characters, including Prompto, Gladiolus, and Ignis for season pass holders. This will give Square Enix a chance to have the story reach its full potential. Other upcoming updates and DLC for the game include online multiplayer and a Moogles Chocobo Carnival, currently being held in Altissia until February 20th.

All in all, Final Fantasy XV is one of the best gaming experiences the eighth generation has to offer. The game is simply a blast to play and experience. The combat is brand new, yet still incorporates some aspects from the series's past. The soundtrack is full of simply fantastic tracks composed by Yoko Shimomura. The world of Eos is breathtaking to explore and just enjoy the road trip of a lifetime. And despite its flaws, the story has heart, features an excellent cast with Noctis & his crew stealing the spotlight, and will make you think, laugh, and cry.



# The Biggest Celebrity Passings of 2016



ADAM GRASSANI  
Co-Editor

If there's one topic that many will remember 2016 for, it will be the numerous big names we lost. The number of celebrities that passed away last year is almost too many to count. In fact, a mathematician analysed the year and concluded that the number of celebrity deaths occurred in 2016 is a fluctuation that is expected once every 200 years. It's time we paid final respects to the biggest names we lost last year.

Passings ranged from many different industries. The music industry lost legends such as Glenn Frey, co-founder of the Eagles rock band, as well as George Michael, one half of the pop duo "Wham!", who produced the iconic song "YMCA." Some iconic actors passed as well, including Alan Rickman, who played Professor Severus Snape in the Harry Potter films, and Joe Alaskey, voice actor of many characters in the iconic "Looney Tunes" franchise, including Bugs Bunny and Daffy Duck. Lastly the sports world suffered numerous tragedies, among them the death of golf legend Arnold Palmer, Gordie Howe, know better by his nickname "Mr. Hockey," as well as NBA sideline reporter, Craig Sager.

However, with no disrespect intended at all to any of the names that passed, there were some that were bigger than others. And arguably the biggest passing that music suffered was that of pop and rock legend David Bowie, who passed on January 10th, 2016 after an 18 month battle with cancer at age 69. Bowie will always be remembered as one who revolutionized both pop and rock, as he broke boundaries in both genres with his influential creativity. "Bowie's so often cited as an influence by people, but that's almost like saying that food is an influence," said St. Vincent in the NME. "He's so theatrical—I almost think of it as a Shakespearean thing, so it doesn't surprise me that he caught on in Britain when he did. If there's one thing I got from David Bowie, it's that you can be a shapeshifter and never be pinned down; if people get the same thing from you every time, that's actually disappointing."

Out of all the deaths in 2016, arguably the most impactful was the passing of heavyweight boxing legend Muhammad Ali, who passed on June 2nd, 2016 at age 74 from Parkinson's disease, which he had been fighting for 32 years. Ali was considered to be the greatest boxer to ever live, with a record of 56-5 with 37 knockouts as well as pulling off one of boxings greatest upsets over Sonny Liston, back when he was known as Cassius Clay.

However, Ali will be remembered just as much, if not more, for his activism in society. He was not afraid at all to give his opinions on issues in society and take stances against injustices. The most infamous example was when he refused to fight in the Vietnam War as part of his anti-war stance, in which he was convicted of Draft Evasion and sentenced to five years in prison, a \$10,000 fine, and a three year ban from boxing. The conviction was later overturned, however and he returned to the ring

Ali's activism doesn't stop there; even in his later years he still spoke out on issues, including calling out Donald Trump's proposed muslim ban. With Muhammad Ali's death came a message to America that we need to carry on his legacy and start speaking out on social issues, thus inspiring more activism. The greatest example of this was when NBA stars Chris Paul, Carmelo Anthony, Dwyane Wade, and LeBron James took the stage at the beginning of the ESPY awards to tell just that.

"Tonight we're honoring Muhammad Ali, the GOAT," LeBron said. "But to do his legacy any justice, let's use this moment as a call to action to all professional athletes to educate ourselves, explore these issues, speak up, use our influence and renounce all violence and, most importantly, go back to our communities, invest our time, our resources, help rebuild them, help strengthen them, help change them. We all have to do better."

Continuing on into sports, the most tragic death of 2016 was almost undeniably the death of Jose Fernandez. The ace pitcher for the Miami Marlins was killed at the incredibly young age of 24 during a boating accident on September 25th, his whole future and likely hall of fame baseball career taken from him. The MLB, Miami Marlins, and sports world didn't take the news lightly. The game against the Atlanta Braves was canceled that day. Numerous teams paid tribute to the fallen ace, including all three sports teams in Miami.

Lastly, the Miami Marlins held a tribute to him the next game against the New York Mets, a game in which all Marlins players wore Jose Fernandez's number 16 and name on their backs. It began with a moment of silence, then followed with a taps playing of Take Me Out To The Ballgame. In the game, Dee Gordon hit a solo home run in the top of the first and couldn't hold back the tears trotting around the bases. The night ended with the entire team surrounding the pitcher's mound and praying for their fallen teammate.

Finally, we come to December. With the end of the year approaching, and everyone in the holiday spirit, many thought that this would be the end of all the passings in 2016, right? Wrong. On December 23rd, the news broke that Carrie Fisher, the icon actress of Star Wars series starring as Princess Leia Organa, suffered a massive heart attack and was placed into cardiac arrest. She passed four days later on December 27th at the age of 60. Adding to the tragedy, her mother, iconic actress Debbie Reynolds passed a day later on December 28th at the age of 84. With the passings of Muhammad Ali, Jose Fernandez, Carrie Fisher, David Bowie, and many more; 2016 will be remembered as the year we said goodbye to all of these big names. The year we paid our final respects to all of them and look back and cherish all that they gave us and accomplished during their time here on Earth.



2016 was a tragic year for celebrities // Rebecca Karpinski



# New Year Resolutions at BCC

**LESHAY JONES**  
*News Editor*

We are now a month into the New Year and there are millions of people around the world who have set New Year's Resolutions for themselves. Though some people tend to give up on their resolutions the first month in, many students here at Bergen Community College are still going strong.



**Chris Jimenez**

**Major:** Sports Management

**New Year Resolution:**

"My resolution was to come to school here at BCC and pursue my newfound love for Sports Management."



**Tatiana Lopez**

**Major:** Economics

**New Year Resolution:**

"My resolution this year is to graduate from Bergen and it's going great because I will be graduating this May."



**Juhi Patel**

**Major:** Health Science

**New Year Resolution:**

"My New Year's resolution was to give up coffee completely and I haven't had a drop since January 1st."



**Ryan Anthony**

**Major:** General Arts

**New Year Resolution:**

"I want to eat a lot better. So far, I have given up soda and I drink a lot more water. I'm just taking it one day at a time. I also want to try out for a play at Bergen."



**Jason Trejos**

**Major:** Education

**New Year Resolution:**

"This year, I want to change my work ethic and, like most people, I want to lose a little bit of weight."



**Crystal Pena**

**Major:** Performing Arts

**New Year Resolution:**

"I want to be stress free and carefree. I really want to learn how to manage my stress. I also want to drink more water."

BCC students talk about their resolutions. //Jonathan Orozco

JOIN THE TORCH  
Meetings every Tues., 12:30 p.m., SC-111C-D



# Black History Month is Here!



**LESHAY JONES**  
News Editor

*Studying black history. // Google*

In February, many people are focused on love. With Valentine's Day right around the corner, who wouldn't be? Yet there are some who turn a blind eye to the annual celebration that helped to shape the nation as we know it today.

That's right. It is African American History month, a celebration that many African Americans believe does not get as much recognition as it should.

The history of Black History month begins with an organization called the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, which is now known as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History. This group, founded by Carter G. Woodson and Jesse E. Moorland in 1915, sponsored its very first Black History Week in 1926.

During the second week of February, African Americans would celebrate the great accomplishments, inventions, and progress of the Black community. Mr. Woodson chose to hold the celebration during this short week in order to coincide with the birthdays of former President Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass.

Thanks to the Civil Rights Movement, however, Negro History Week blossomed into African American History month. In 1976, President Gerald Ford officially recognized February as Black History month.

Every year, Black History month is centered around a certain theme, and this year's theme could not be any more timely. The Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) decided to name this year's theme, "The Crisis in Black Education."

Education as a whole is extremely important to millions of students across the country. With BCC being one of the top community colleges in the state of

New Jersey, it can be said that many of the students that attend, care about their education.

Despite this, the education of Black Americans has been a problem since what seems like the beginning of time.

In the 2017 Executive Summary, the ASALH board stated, "Throughout the last quarter of the twentieth century and continuing today, the crisis in black education has grown significantly in urban neighborhoods where public schools lack resources, endure overcrowding, exhibit a racial achievement gap, and confront policies that fail to deliver substantive opportunities."

According to the National Education Association, only 14 percent of African Americans graduated with a Bachelor's degree or higher in 2000, compared to 27 percent of Whites.

BCC's very own Black Student Union has some events planned in honor of this month.

This year's Black History month will truly be on to remember, especially with this strong and extremely important theme.

The ASALH executive board stated, "Addressing the crisis in black education should be considered one of the most important goals in America's past, present, and future."

With all of the lessons that Americans have learned over the centuries, hopefully, we will be able to learn from the past, live in the present and prepare for the future in order to draw us together in equality.

## Keynote Speaker at BCC

**WILLIAM FEOLA**  
Contributing Writer

The chairman of the board of directors of the Association of Community College Trustees told Bergen Community College students this month to stay committed to their education, to push themselves and to challenge themselves and each other to succeed.

Bakari G. Lee, an attorney who is also active in several social and civic organizations, not only told students how important it was to work hard and succeed, but he also spoke about the crisis facing black education and offered some solutions.

Lee, wearing a suit and tie, was the keynote speaker for the college's Black History Month opening day ceremony. He stood tall behind the podium as he delivered the very inspirational speech in the Ciccone Theater on campus.

"African American students don't do well in school not because they don't care and they aren't capable of doing it, but because they lack the resources to succeed," Lee said. "These students are hungry, they have poor transportation, and many deal with either mental health or social service issues that affect their education negatively."

While these issues do have a negative impact on the African American community and their education, Lee remained optimistic when offering



*Bakari G. Lee // msnbj.com*

some solutions to help reduce these problems.

He talked about how great community colleges were, particularly towards African Americans because of their affordability and the programs they offer to help black students succeed.

"Community college serves as the cornerstone of education in America and African American kids are succeeding because of the programs they offer," He said, "Programs like the College Readiness program and First 30 program are focusing on what the students need and are improving education for African American students."

"I was ignorant about community colleges before I became a trustee because I had no real concept of them," Lee said, "After I became aware of their value and I saw how much they really want students to succeed, I was embarrassed by my ignorance and now I want to push the agenda of community college forward."

Lee concluded his speech by telling the theater full of students and faculty to never give up on education and to help each other reach the same amount of success and left the stage to a loud round of applause from the crowd of students and faculty.



# Hidden Figures, No Longer Hidden

FOREVER HOLMES  
Ad Manager

Hidden Figures is a powerful cinema based on a true story which displays a clear message of morals, ethics and progression. Hidden Figures shows how three women were able to make history in three separate ways, the work each of them performed at NASA was very crucial. Although those three women started as computers, (what they would refer to intelligent African Americans) they were the first out of many other African American women to work for NASA and to send Astronauts into space.

One of the three women, Dorothy Vaughn, taught herself, along with her team of girls, how to work the IBM Fortran machine. She learned by stealing a book from the non-colored section of the library. She became the first supervisor for colored people as a Fortran specialist on the frontier of electronic computing and was regarded as on the most brilliant minds at NASA.

Mary Jackson, a computer for NASA with the intelligence of an engineer had a Bachelor's degree in both mathematics and physical science. She went to court to display her case in front a judge to prove that she was

worthy enough to take engineer classes at an all-white school so that she can qualify for the engineer position at NASA. Mary did some back research on the judge and told him how he was the first in his family to succeed and out of all the cases he would hear that day which one would matter one hundred years from now? She was able to take night classes and became NASA's and America's first female African-American aeronautical engineer. Also in, 1979, she was appointed Langley's Women's Program manager where she fought to advance women of all colors.

Katherine G. Johnson computed calculations and analytical equations for Launch, Landing and Go-No-Go into space. At first they would only assign her "dummy work" as they called it which consisted of double checking other engineers answers before it gets turned into the supervisor. Each time they presented her a task no matter how big or small her numbers, would be spot on. She would look around, beyond and through numbers, if not they would be staying on the ground not actually getting astronauts into space, in her mind she was already there. Katherine



Hidden Figures cast. //Google

performed calculations for The Red Zone, Friendship 7, Apollo II mission to the moon and the Space Shuttle. In 2016, NASA dedicated the Katherine G. Johnson computing building in honor of her groundbreaking work in space travel and at age 97 was awarded the presidential medal of Freedom.

Each woman played both crucial

and important roles at NASA, Dorothy excelled with IBM Fortran, programming and fixing the machine when needed, Mary succeeded as an engineer and with her help Astronauts went into space safely and Katherine succeeded by using different forms of math to calculate and analyze Launch, Landing and Go-No-Go.

## A Dateless Valentine's Day



A single date. //Rebecca Karpinski

REBECCA KARPINSKI  
PHOTO EDITOR

Valentine's Day... A day celebrated by couples across the world where couples exchange flowers, gifts, cards, and chocolate in celebrating love and affection between intimate partners. But, for many people, there is one thing preventing these people from participating in these acts of love and that is... a date. In this case, Valentine's Day is celebrated as "Singles Awareness Day". Instead of feeling sorry for yourself on Valentine's Day, focus on enjoying being single. You're

free from an unhealthy and loveless relationship and you have the potential to meet your soulmate!

As a single person, you actually have an advantage. Instead of letting Valentine's day define you, you can define Valentine's day. Make it about loving yourself instead of loving a lover! Take the money you would have spent on a date with someone, and treat yourself to a nice dinner, watch Netflix and binge out on snacks all night. All the Valentines candy goes on sale the

next day, so if you can wait until then, by all means do it and indulge yourself then. Be creative and make this night to treat yourself.

Another way for a single person to reclaim Valentine's day is to focus on other kinds of love. Spend the day with friends, family, and express your own special love for each other.

Okay, despite all these great ideas on spending Valentine's Day with yourself, it's possible you're still feeling down. You want romance, you want passion, you want companionship, you

want love! That's priority number one for you and it's understood. So many people are single on Valentine's Day and so many people feel the exact same way you are feeling especially around the week of February 14th. It's ok to feel down about not having that special someone to spend this day of love and romance with. It's normal. Just know that you are not alone and you can spend Valentine's Day with the hottest, sexiest, funniest, and smartest person you know - you.



B E R G E N   C O M M U N I T Y   C O L L E G E

# Graduating From Bergen Community College?

## Spring 2017 College Transfer Information Presentations

Wednesday, February 1 .....	William Paterson University
Wednesday, February 8 .....	Baruch College
Wednesday, February 22.....	Rutgers University
Wednesday, March 1 .....	Ramapo College
Wednesday, March 22.....	John Jay College of Criminal Justice
Wednesday, March 29 .....	Montclair State University
Wednesday, April 5 .....	New Jersey Institute of Technology
Wednesday, April 12 .....	New Jersey City University

Meet with representatives from area colleges  
Time: 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. • Room C-313

### Spring 2017 College Fairs

#### Out-of-State Colleges & Universities

Tuesday, March 7, 2017  
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. • Student Center, Pitkin Education Building

#### In-State New Jersey Colleges & Universities

Tuesday, March 21, 2017  
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. • Student Center, Pitkin Education Building





# MLB Hall of Fame: Class of 17’ (and with Controversy)

FERNANDO VAZQUEZ  
STAFF WRITER

The 2017 Major League Baseball Hall of Fame inductees are Jeff Bagwell of the Houston Astros, Tim Lincecum of the Seattle Mariners, and Ivan Rodriguez of the Texas Rangers and Florida Marlins. Although the election of Jeff Bagwell and Ivan Rodriguez came with some controversy because of their relation to Performance-Enhancing drugs, it is a very talented class.

Former Associated Press, New York Times scribe and a member of the Baseball Writers’ Association, Murray Chass, decided to leave his ballot blank. Since 2008, Chass has posted blogs over at his personal website. That’s where Chass revealed he would be submitting a blank ballot over. In the piece, he hints at some of the reasons why he won’t vote for certain candidates. Chass appeared on MLB Network Radio with Casey Stern and former All-Star closer Brad Lidge on Monday, where he attempted to explain his decision for turning in a blank ballot. “I am making an impact by voting. If I send in blank ballot, that makes it more difficult for people who shouldn’t be in to get in.” Chass said on the MLB Network Radio program.

Some sports analysts and baseball fans disagree over some of the candidates, while favorites such as Vladimir Guerrero, Trevor Hoffman, Edgar Martinez, and Mike Mussina did not make the cut.



Hall of Fame: Ivan Rodriguez (left), Tim Lincecum (top), and Jeff Bagwell (bottom). //Google

## A Miracle in Houston

ANTHONY KHELIL  
SPORTS EDITOR

In the blink of an eye, many of whom were watching the 51st ever Super Bowl between the Atlanta Falcons and New England Patriots, thought it was over. The Atlanta Falcons quickly pounced on the Patriots for an early lead and at one point led by 25 points, 28-3. Little did the audience watching know, this was only the beginning.

The game seemed to be headed in a complete downward spiral for the New England Patriots. Early they were down 14-0, an unsuspected start by Brady and head coach Bill Belichick, the most successful head coach and quarterback combination there has ever been. They were competing together in their 7th Super Bowl, previously winning 4. Down 14 and making their way down the field, Tom Brady had his pass picked off on third down, as Falcons Cornerback, Robert Alford, returned it for 82 yards and a touchdown. Before the end of the half, the Patriots tacked on a field goal and were down 21-3, being completely outplayed by the young and seemingly ready Falcons. Regular season MVP and Falcons Star Quarterback, Matt Ryan, led the charge with an almost perfect passer rating in the first half.

On Atlanta’s second drive of the second half, the Falcons added another touchdown, as running back Tevin Coleman ran it in to extend the lead to 25 points, the Falcons now lead 28-3. The Patriots responded with their first touchdown of the game on their following drive, on a 5 yard run by running back James White. Kicker Stephen Gostkowski, who was almost perfect in the regular season, missed the extra point try, adding to the Patriots woes, who were now down 28-9. The drive took a lot of time, the Patriots already pressed for time trimmed 6:25 off the clock.



Tom Brady // Flickr, Keith Allison

The Patriots defense was able to force a quick punt from the Falcons and was able to add a field goal on their next drive. With 9:44 left the Patriots were now down 28-12. In order to come back, the Patriots would need to shut down Atlanta’s offense and score an unanswered 16 points in just under 10 min, it seemed far from reach.

Never count out Tom Brady. New England’s quarterback is seen by many fans, analysts and professional athletes as the greatest of all time, and with his performance on Sunday, February 5th, he further cemented himself as the G.O.A.T.

On the Falcons next drive, they looked to cement the game and bring the first ever Super Bowl victory to Atlanta. Quarterback Matt Ryan fumbled on a 3rd and 1 situation, the Patriots recovered and now were set up in good field position. Tom Brady soon

found wide receiver Danny Amendola for a 6-yard touchdown, followed by a successful two-point conversion on a run by running back James White. The Patriots were now down 28-20 with just under 6 minutes remaining in regulation.

A poor play calling by the Atlanta Falcons offensive coordinator lead to a missed field goal opportunity to ice the game, and another Patriots possession. The impossible was quickly becoming more and more of a reality. New England got the ball and drove the length of the field, a drive that included arguably one of the best catches in Super Bowl history by Patriots wide receiver, Julian Edelman, a catch one certainly had to see to believe. The drive ended with a 1-yard touchdown run by running back James White, and a successful two-point conversion attempt, on a pass to receiver Danny

Amendola. With 57 seconds to go, the Patriots had come back from 25 down to tie the game at 28 in Super Bowl 51.

It took 51 Super Bowl’s, but for the first time in the history of the sport, a Super Bowl was headed into overtime. New England won the coin toss and marched right down the field. On a second and goal, James White dove into the end zone for a Super Bowl winning touchdown. The greatest comeback in Super Bowl History had been completed and the New England Patriots were crowned Super Bowl LI champions by a score of 34-28.

The comeback left fans of the game speechless, it was truly indescribable. Prior to this game, the largest comeback in Super Bowl history had been ten points. Tom Brady took home the Super Bowl MVP award, further cementing his legacy as the greatest to ever play the game.



# BCC WRESTLING MAKING AN IMPACT

CHRISTOPHER MOLINA  
STAFF WRITER

Halfway through the season with a roster of mostly freshman, the Bergen Community College wrestling team is facing its toughest year yet. Despite having faced a long list of strong opponents, the coaches and their wrestlers are not intimidated. “There’s been some bumps in the road, with changing weights and numbers of kids leaving but I think they are taking the responsibility people moving around [and] people working very hard in the [class] rooms” said assistant coach Michael Fenner. Getting the good grades in the classroom is essential to becoming a student athlete, coaches from all sports take it serious. Both the wrestling coaches were pleased to see many of their wrestlers have eligible grades this past semester. “This year we had a good Fall. Everybody passed their classes and i got my whole team back in the spring.” said head coach Christopher Disanto.

Bergen’s next match will be held against Mount Saint Vincent, on Wednesday, January 18, at Riverdale, New York. Head coach Disanto expressed his desire to ready his team, remarking, ”we really need to improve on wrestling the whole seven minutes.” He added, “if you know you’re going to wrestle a tough kid, so wrestle him the whole match.” Of the freshman in the lineup, many have just started collegiate level wrestling for the first time, but showed good results. “High school doesn’t really prepare you for college life,” Disanto admits, “[and] you have all this extra time, you got to learn how to use it, I really feel that my



BCC Student wrestling for the win. // BergenCCBulldogs.com

wrestlers in the fall really did know how to use their time valuably”. With the majority of the roster being freshman, the program has shown steady improvement in skill and character. Freshman wrestler Luke Bohn, who was named this season’s captain, has proven to have a lot of the skills in leading this program. “It’s good to know that no matter where you’re from , [and] the wrestling community is kind of close knit, for me to come to Bergen living in Jefferson, and to be named team captain is pretty

huge..” said Bohn. Bohn has shown exceptional skill in wrestling this season with a 9-1 record, and is focused on the season ahead, “Just keeping on track and class as well as coming to practice every day, consistency is a big part of it.”

# College Football National Championship

ANTHONY KHELIL  
SPORTS EDITOR

On Monday January 9th, the two best college football teams in the Nation, the Clemson Tigers and the Alabama Crimson Tide, faced off in the College Football National Championship for the second straight year. Fans could not ask for a better game in what was the first rematch in College Football National Championship history. The rematch may have even been better than the original, with an unbelievable twist at the end.

The teams won a combined 55 of their last 56 games, and were the true powerhouses, ranked number 1 and 2, in college football. Deshaun Watson, arguably the most talented quarterback in college football, led his Clemson Tigers to a victory against Alabama. Clemson became the first team to defeat Coach Nick Saban, who had been 5-0 in his previous national championship games, as they downed The Crimson Tide 35-31.

Watson found receiver Hunter Renfrow for a 2-yard touchdown pass with one second remaining, giving Clemson their first title since 1981. Alabama has beaten Clemson the year prior in a shootout 45-40, but were denied an unprecedented fifth championship in eight seasons with this loss to Clemson.

The lead has changed hands three times in the fourth quarter, leaving all college football fans on the edge of their seats, but to Alabama’s dismay Watson got the ball last. Which turned out to be Watson’s last college football game, as he declared for the National Football League draft after the victory, the third year Quarterback threw for 420 yards and three touchdowns.

Alabama’s offense went missing in the second half, but came to life, after ArDarius Stewart took a backwards pass from Alabama quarterback Jalen Hurts and threw a perfect pass to O.J. Howard for 24 yards. On the very next



Players focused on the game. //Google

play Hurts brook free from a collapsing pocket and found his way into the end zone for a 30 yard touchdown, making it 31-28 with 2:07 left.

Watson would then go on to lead Clemson on a game winning drive, similar to immortalized college football quarterback Vince Young did for the Longhorns 12 years prior, in the Rose bowl. When asked about the final drive Watson said, “I was Calm.” He told his team, “Let’s go be great.”

Later in the drive, a pass interference call on Alabama made it a first-and-goal at the 2 yard line with six seconds left. There was time for one more play, and to avoid a potential overtime, the Tigers neglected to take the game tying field goal and decided to go for the win. Renfrow then slipped

away from the defense at the goal line and was all alone for an easy toss in from Deshaun Watson. Clemson’s Ben Boulware, one of the toughest linebackers in the country was in tears after the victory. Post-game he screamed, “It’s been 35 long years! It’s coming home baby! It’s coming home!”





# The Torch SPORTS



## BCC's STUDENT ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

**ANTHONY KHELIL**  
*SPORTS EDITOR*

Bergen's own student Nadia Vaso has won the 2015-2016 John Stauff Female Scholar Athlete of the Year award. Vaso becomes the first player in Bergen Community College history to receive this award. The award which is presented at the annual national Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) region XIX awards gala, honors a female student-athlete who excels in the classroom and athletics.

Fort Lee Native Nadia Vaso has always done well in both the classroom and athletics. She is no stranger when it comes to awards. She has maintained a 4.0 GPA, which earned her the Pinnacle Academic Achievement award, and has participated on a team of Business students from Bergen who won the New Jersey County College Case Competition which is sponsored by Rutgers Business School.



*Nadia Vaso student athlete of the year. //BergenCCbulldogs.com*

Vaso plays Volleyball for the Bergen Bulldogs, on the court she is a setter, and has earned back to back region and conference first-team award honors, all while leading the Bulldogs to the region tournament finals. She is ranked nationally in Assists per set with (6.65) placing her 34th in the country.

Off the court, Vaso is a member of many clubs and impressive organizations such as Phi Theta Kappa, the Colleges Italian Club and student government association. She also volunteers with the Cliffside Park animal Shelter. Vaso certainly has an impressive Academic and Athletic resume leading to the prestigious award. Vaso will graduate from Bergen Community College this upcoming may.

## Yordano Ventura Passing

**ADAM GRASSANI**  
*Co-EDITOR*

Major League Baseball faced more tragedy January 22, 2017 as news broke that Kansas City Royals pitcher Yordano Ventura, had passed that morning in a car accident that occurred in the Dominican Republic. Adding to the tragedy, former major league Andy Marte was also killed in a separate car accident the same morning, also in the Dominican Republic. Ventura was 25, while Marte was 33.

Yordano Ventura burst onto the scene his rookie year in 2014, where he went 14-10 with a 3.20 ERA. He struck out 153 batters with a WHIP of 1.295 and helped the Royals reach the 2014 World Series. In that World Series against the San Francisco Giants, despite his team losing the series in seven games, he had a 1.20 ERA in two starts, including a seven-inning shutout in game 6 with four strikeouts. He came up clutch with the season on the line and forced a game 7. Thankfully the Royals came back the very next season, winning the 2015 World Series against the New York Mets, so Ventura was able to capture baseball's ultimate prize before he left our world.

Andy Marte, on the other hand, didn't quite reach the same level of success. He was recognized as a top prospect in 2000 when he signed with the Atlanta Braves. However, he went on to hit .140 with the team with no home runs in the 2005 season. He then went on to play five seasons with the Cleveland Indians from 2006-2010, and played his final season in 2014 with the Arizona Diamondbacks. Throughout his career, Marte hit .218 with 21 homers and 99 RBIs.

"We are deeply saddened to learn of the tragic passing of Andy Marte and Yordano Ventura," MLB Players Association executive director Tony Clark said in a statement. It's never

easy to lose a member of our fraternity, and there are no words to describe the feeling of losing two young men in the prime of their lives. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their families, friends, teammates and fans throughout the United States and Latin America."

The Dominican Republic has had a history of car accidents killing major leaguers. St Louis Cardinals outfielder died at the age of 22 in 2014 during a car crash, as well as shortstop Andujar Cedeno at 31. According to a study done by the World Health Organization done in 2015, the Dominican Republic leads the Americas in deaths from traffic accidents with 29.3 per 100,000 inhabitants.

Days after the incident, hall of fame pitcher Pedro Martinez called for an investigation of the accident, with backing from Ventura's family. He suspected that Yordano Ventura may have been robbed of various belongings, including his World Series ring, and left to die. However an autopsy performed on January 24th debunked Martinez's allegation, as it concluded that Ventura died upon impact.

Both deaths come just three days shy of four months after the tragic passing of Miami Marlins ace Jose Fernandez, who was killed in a boating accident on September 25, 2016 at the young age of 24. Marlins infielder Dee Gordon, who hit a home run in the first at bat in the game the very next day against the New York Mets in an almost scripted fashion, expressed his condolences to the Royals organization on Twitter.

"@royals we know how you feel... me and my teammates here for y'all in this tough time @TheRealHos35 @mrzoombiya y'all be strong." Gordon tweeted. Prayers go out to Yordano Ventura and Andy Marte as well as their respective loved ones, both gone way too soon.



*Another Tragic Loss for the MLB. //Wikipedia*