BCC Slashes Lecturer, Part-Time Positions

Part 1: Over 60 Lecturers gone

GABE WANISSIAN

The 64 full-time lecturers and 150 part-time position cuts that occurred over the summer as cost cutting measures are signs of a “reality we have to face,” said Bergen Community College spokesman Larry Hlavenka, Jr. “In these times, we have to work within the confines of a budget, we still have to ensure that we are not putting it on the backs of the students.”

Nearly $934,000 will be saved from the lecturer cuts, and around $1,000,000 will be saved for the 150 part time positions that were either removed, or had their hours reduced, Hlavenka said.

“This is impacting the students,” said Business Department Chair and head of ADCO (Academic Department Chairs Organization) Professor Robert Saldarini; three lecturers were let go, and 15 classes were canceled, reassigned or accommodated in his department.

Not all courses that were dropped were due to the lecturer cuts, said Saldarini, as classes that do not meet a certain registration number may also be dropped.

Saldarini said there had been word since March that lecturers may not be reappointed for the fall semester, in which ADCO filed a resolution to administration to mitigate the lecturer cuts around the end of the spring semester.

“There were lot of concerns amongst chairs about cutting into academic programs in this point of time,” said Saldarini. “If we had running room, maybe we would have time to properly find adjuncts, but this became a sort of crisis.”

Saldarini expressed that for the majority of the chairs, replacing lecturers for online courses proved to be more difficult, due to the smaller availability of suitable adjuncts that had completed TOPP certification needed to teach the courses.

“Having been a department chair before, I know that it’s tight,” said Dr. William Mullaney, Vice President of Academic Affairs. Mullaney, who had been chair of Humanities and Languages in Chandler-Gilbert Community College back in 2005 added that, “this is not fun for any supervisor to have to let people go, but when the final budget numbers came in, it was about how were we going to best handle this loss.”

Bergen tuition will increase 1.89 percent this upcoming year, which will be lower than the national 2.9 percent increase for public two year colleges, according to The College Board.

Students have also had to maneuver around the lecturer cuts, Phi Theta Kappa VP Andrew Fenwick had an honors sociology class that was cancelled after professor Maria Flynn was not reappointed as lecturer. “It was hard to find another class that fit with my schedule,” said Fenwick. The class he found to replace it was then dropped due to the low registration count.

“Is there another industry in America that would ask employees to come back to work under similar circumstances and expect the same level of job performances?” said Weinstein in the piece. Lecturers carry a full-time load and get paid $19,300 a semester plus benefits, whilst adjuncts can earn up to $6,300 (potentially $8,400 if approved to teach an additional fourth class) a semester with no benefits.

Faculty Senate Chair and Longtime professor Dr. Alan Kaufman shared that the timing in the cuts may lead to “selecting people who may not be qualified for these courses,” during July’s Board of Trustees Meeting.

President B. Kaye Walter remained hopeful during September’s BOT meeting, saying “we have exceptional adjuncts here, they are exceptional faculty just as lecturers and our tenure track.”

Not-reappointed lecturer positions occurred about a month before the first day of class.

Illustration by Jessica Rodriguez//The Torch.

#FeeltheBern

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"Remembering a Student"

New Medical Building

Continued on pg. 2 with Part 2: 150 part-time positions cut
Dear Student Body,

On behalf of the Executive Board, I would like to send a warm welcome to you all. As the year approaches, I want to encourage everyone to step out of their comfort zones. If you’re willing to test your limits, you can and will achieve anything possible.

This past year, I have realized that any student who takes on a path at Bergen Community College ends up with a valuable outcome. In my experience, I have found B.C.C. to be a place where they invest not only in shaping the students you are inside the classroom, but also the leaders you are becoming outside of it. Your years at Bergen have a lot in store, however it’s up to you to take advantage of it.

At B.C.C., the Student Government Association is dedicated to protecting your voice as we are one of the governing bodies of the college. We act as the liaison between the students and the administrators of the institution. With your feedback, we are looking to pass effective resolutions with the college that will benefit everyone in our community. This year, we are going to take advantage of student input as much as we can by conducting surveys, for the student body in regards to important matters that have been working on the pay to print initiative and surveyed students to potentially get the best educated workforce possible. That means that we have got to make college affordable,” Sanders says.

He commented on this accusation saying, “My view is that we have got to deal with the fact that the middle class in this country is disappearing, that we have millions of people working for wages that are too low to save for college, let alone pay for college, let alone pay for textbooks. Even for those who can work at a job, pay for courses and buy textbooks, we may have to get more resourceful.”

Budgets were also cut for various student organizations and clubs, including Student Government Association, as well as various student events including Leadership and Diversity Weekend. According to the Office of Student Life,

Full-time BCC nurse Barbara Buff shared that the loss of part-time nurses had affected service during the summer and expects the volume of students during the fall to make things more challenging. “One day students brought paperwork and athletes got physicals, we probably saw around 60-80 students that day, it took us nearly four hours when usually it would be finished much sooner,” said Buff. Night shift nurses would no longer be available during night hours, said Buff.

“Student safety is something Human Resources takes very seriously,” said Miller.

After Lyndhurst part-time Academic Counselor Katie Hics was let go, BCC counselors from the Paramus campus began seeing students once a month at the Meadowlands campus alongside office assistant Maggie McCarthy.

“If it provides basic coverage for students in Lyndhurst,” says Transfer Counselor Gene Calderon, “but the rotation of counselors makes it ‘harder for the student to build chemistry with one counselor.’”

“If there’s a demonstrated need, the college will look for a way to fund it. We want to support students and based on the needs of the institution,” said BCC spokesman Larry Havenka, Jr.

Bernie Sanders’ unfailing ability to appeal to the younger generation of voters has placed him in a favorable position in the polls for the 2016 democratic primary elections. His strong opinions on racism and the inequality of wealth are helping him gain a great deal of positive interaction across the Democratic Party. This increasing momentum has the potential to place Sanders ahead of Hillary Clinton in this political marathon.

Clinton is now coming to realize the true threat that Sanders poses as her primary opponent, and is taking steps to combat his campaign. During an interview with a South Carolina Democrat on Monday August 17, 2015, she gave subtle hints as to how she plans to deal with racism, but more specifically the Black Lives Matter movement, and use it against Sanders.

Back in late July, Clinton commented on the Black Lives Matter movement. “This [movement] is fueled in large measure by young people and it is a particular development in the civil rights movement that deserves our support,” she said. “By that I mean, there are some who say, ‘Well racism is a result of economic inequality. I don’t believe that.’

‘Some,’ refers to Sanders’ comment from July, saying that racism and economic inequality are “parallel problems.” Bernie Sanders believes wholeheartedly in the philosophies of Martin Luther King Jr. Just like Dr. King, Sanders wants to address both the rising poverty levels of African Americans while also addressing the staggering wealth inequality in our nation. Through this effort, the Vermont senator has been accused of focusing on the economic issues and placing them above racial inequality.

Sincerely,

Laura Zottarelli
Financial Aid and Scholarships Provide Student Aid

GABE WANISSIAN AND FLORENCIA LLOSAS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF & CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Community college has yet to be made free, but fear not. The pockets of students can still be saved through other means of financial assistance. Around 60 percent of students at Bergen Community College receive some kind of aid; Executive Director of Financial Aid Dr. Sharon Audet recommends all students to submit their FAFSA regardless.

“Everyone regardless whether they think they should receive financial aid or they won’t should fill it out,” said Audet. “[Getting Financial Aid] varies between household income, size, whether you have a prior degree, whether you worked, filed taxes or have attended more than one college,” she added.

When going through the process of filling out forms and submitting information, students have to be not only thorough, but also attentive. Audet reminds students that “We notify them every step of the way on what their status is with their financial aid, whether they are missing documents, whether there is an issue with their student aid report, or whether there is an issue with their SAP [Satisfactory Academic Progress].”

Students must properly maintain three main facets - GPA, time to completion and rate of completion - to be in good standing for their SAP and keep receiving financial aid. The rate of completion aspect tends to get overlooked by students, according to Audet, who reminds Financial Aid recipients that they need a 67 percent passing and completing rate. Aside from receiving Federal grants and loans, one can receive state aid in the form of TAG [Tuition Aid Grant] and EOF [Educational Opportunity Fund], as well as on campus Federal work study.

Students who do not qualify for any Federal or State Aid, can still look to scholarships as an alternate route for assistance with tuition. 438 total students received scholarships in 2013-14, with several awards that are funded by The Foundation at BCC. Academic Counselor and Scholarship Committee member Tim Foote shared that, much like Financial Aid, scholarships look at the candidate’s circumstances, but the highly competitive nature can make difficult choices go to students who show consistency and longevity.

“If you have [students] with the same qualifications, with leadership, community service same gpa, it’s going to the student with more credits,” said Foote; regardless students for both financial aid and scholarships should merely hone in on academic and extracurricular success, as that will increase their chances to spare their College funds.

New MEVO Garden on Campus

BERGEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE)

Bergen Community College donated a contaminated lot to the Mahwah Environmental Volunteer Organization and their personnel turned it into a beautiful vegetable garden that now resides alongside the local garden operated by the school’s faculty and students. During the long hot months of summer, the volunteers of MEVO collected various donated crates and upcycled them to make a big garden which now has variety of tomatoes, herbs, peppers and more.

Not only has our campus become the new home to all these healthy treats, but also thanks to a volunteer beekeeper, both gardens can benefit from extensive pollination needed for the crops, and the volunteers, from over the ten pounds of honey per hive that will be harvested this fall. “A lot of bees are going extinct now due to the excessive amount of pesticides so, we wanted to create an environment where bees could flourish rather than perish… we are always advocating for healthy food, the gardens have maximized the bees,” said Executive Manager of MEVO, Peter Havensteh.

Apart from providing anyone in need with healthy food, the gardens have been used to educate. Environmental classes accompanied by their professors, the environmental club and anyone who is interested in gardening or is hungry can benefit from the college’s garden that has been producing for more than six years, even the children attending summer daycare.

“The young kids are given a chance to garden and learn about nature, that’s the big idea” said Dr. Charles Sontag, a BCC professor and keeper of the College’s garden.

However, due to lack of volunteers, the local garden is overgrown and not producing as much as it has during previous semesters. Both managers of the gardens, Sontag and Havensteh, agreed that the one thing lacking for both gardens to reach their maximum output is more volunteers.

“We definitely need more students to reach out to us and we’ll reach out to them and have more students involved in taking care of this… the environmental club in general has not a lot of members and I know that so many students that go to the school and it’s like I see the people that could be involved and it’s just a matter of making sure they want to get involved,” said Havensteh.

The new garden is the second lot of land that the College has donated to the Mahwah based organization. Two years ago, an arrangement was made for them to have part of the land between the Golf Courses and the school’s parking lot to be transformed into a berry orchard that is still giving.

The vegetables produced by both gardens are donated to charities and pantries, and the objective has become for the gardens to produce enough food to donate to the college’s food pantry this fall. To do so, both gardens will need more attention - and a whole lot more volunteers.
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Trump for President...for Real This Time

Trump中外 greeting his supporters during his Alabama Campaign run.  
/Courtesy of The Examiner

SAMUEL MCLAUGHLIN  
COPY EDITOR

After more than two decades of toying with the idea of a presidential campaign, real estate guru Donald Trump has finally joined the race. Trump began his campaign with a bang as he bluntly brought forth his own ideas while also throwing punches at President Barack Obama and the other Republican candidates. “So, ladies and gentlemen, I am officially running for President of the United States, and we are going to make our country great again.” Trump said back in June. It was during this speech at Trump Tower in New York where he displayed his campaign slogan for the first time, “Trump: Make America Great Again.”

He concluded his speech saying “Sadly, the American dream is dead, but if I get elected president I will bring it back bigger and better and stronger than ever before.”

Donald Trump has flirted with the notion of a presidential campaign several times in the past, each time backing out at the last minute. First in 1987, then 1999, again in 2004 and 2008, leading up to his last white-flagged attempt in 2011. Trump, labeling himself as the most successful person to run as a presidential candidate, does not seem to be phased by the eye-rolling voters who are all scarred from the previous years of just toeing the line of a campaign. He is mainly focusing on using his wealth and success as the cornerstone of his political platform. At Trump’s announcement speech, he opened by advertising his net worth of $8.7 billion dollars to the nation and saying “That’s the kind of thinking our country needs.”

Trump’s financial power is what he believes will lead him to achieving his goal of creating more jobs throughout the country. He said that he would self-fund his campaign, allowing himself to be free of other potential outside influences that the other “losers” would have to battle. He also stated that his wealth is what this country needs after having such “losers” run this country for so long.

The billionaire does not view himself as a politician, which is directly related to his picture of national greatness. This, he hopes, will place him in a positive light amongst the voters. “I’ve watched the politicians, I’ve dealt with them all my life,” Trump stated. “They’re not sending you. They’re not sending their best. They’re not sending you. They’re not sending you. They’re not sending you. They’re not sending you. They’re not sending you,” Trump declared. This criticism of the one-time prisoner of war caused him to lose a good deal of ground with the Republican party.

He has also been making presumptuous comments about immigration as of late; specifically pertaining to Mexicans.

“We don’t have immigration, we’re not sending their best. We’re not sending their people, they’re not sending their best. They’re not sending you. They’re sending people that have lots of problems, and they’re bringing those problems with us. They’re bringing drugs. They’re bringing crime. They’re raping. And some, I assume, are good people.”

These comments are causing Trump to fight battles against racist and prejudice accusations, but even after these controversial comments, Trump seems to be picking up where he left off, believing wholeheartedly that he will win this election. Spectators are saying that Donald Trump is a candidate who “shoots from the hip and doesn’t care for the script,” and will fight to maintain that image until the very end.
El detractor del “American Dream” Mexicano: Donald Trump

El dieciséis de Junio, en una de las tantas torres Trump, se anunció la candidatura de un nuevo representante para el partido Republicano: Nada más y nada menos, que el famoso billonario, Donald Trump. Introducido por su hija mayor, Ivanka Trump, el rey de los bienes raíces se presentó en el podio y, enfrente de las cámaras y cientos de personas, dio un discurso que dejó a la mitad del país boquiabierto.

Trump se convirtió en celebridad con sus millones, y sus tendencias a hablar primero y analizar lo dicho después- hasta este Junio, su peor y más famoso error fue hecho en la entrevista conducida en el 2006 por The View, un show de ABC en el cual Donald e Ivanka Trump se presentaron juntos para promocionar The Apprentice. Cuando el billonario fue preguntado qué opinaba sobre su hija posando desnuda en la tapa de Playboy, el respondió rápidamente que no creía que su hija haría semejante cosa pero que “tiene una figura muy linda” (she does have a very nice figure) y luego agregó, “he dicho que si Ivanka no fuera mi hija, quizá, ya estaríamos saliendo.” (I've said that if Ivanka weren’t my daughter, perhaps, I would be dating her.) Lo cual sólo fue seguido por un “es tan terrible?” (is that terrible?) - claramente Donald Trump es un hombre de acción, no de planeamiento, sobre todo cuando se trata de televisión nacional.

Volvió a mostrar su tendencia hacia la reflexión luego de la acción es su, ahora muy famoso, discurso presidencial. En él, Trump no solamente repite una y otra vez que los Estados Unidos está siendo hundido en deudas internacionales por la inutilidad de la oficina a cargo de Obama, sino que también comento sobre como el cambiaría el “problema” de la inmigración.

La mayoría de los votantes ya están acostumbrados a escuchar a los candidatos políticos repitiendo infinitas veces los problemas que su competencia ha de resolver y que ellos podrían resolver dos veces más rápido, con menos plata, y más eficiencia - por eso los insultos a Obama no sorprendieron a muchos. Sin embargo, cuando Trump decidió comentar sobre los residentes legales latinoamericanos y los muchos otros latinos que aún no lo son, pero que esperan con ansiedad su Green Cards, las palabras del hombre fueron como estacas en el costado.

Comenzó hablando sobre la deuda nacional, comentando que él, porque tiene mucha plata, no puede ser comprado con los sobornos de las empresas privadas. Hasta ahí, todo estaba muy bien, comentó que China y Japón tienen gobiernos muy inteligentes y la razón por la cual les debemos plata es porque nuestros líderes son malos negociadores, no porque los países orientales a los que les compramos sean malos. Pero luego llegó a México, y con eso a Latino América- Trump anunció que el gobierno Mexicano está mejor económicamente que el estadounidense, y que por esto, México no es amigo del país.

“‘They are not sending their best [México], . ‘They are sending people that have lots of problems with us. They are bringing drugs, they are bringing crime, they are rapists’ dijo Donald Trump alentado por los aplausos de sus seguidores.

Pero no terminó ahí, luego de eso, decidió que México no es el único culpable, sino que esta gente problemática viene de todos lados: “It’s coming from more than Mexico, it’s coming from all over South and Latin America and it’s coming probably, probably from the Middle East. But we don’t know, because we have no protection and we have no competence,” completo Trump. Pero no se preocupen, porque el Señor Trump también compartió con los votantes la solución al problema: una muralla más grande en el borde con México.

“I would build a great wall,” dijo Donald Trump al finalizar su discurso, “I will build a great, great wall on our southern border and I will have mexico paying for this wall, mark my words.”

Para todos los latinos, hijos de latinos, mexicanos, incluso cualquier inmigrante que viene a este país alentado por las oportunidades, por el sueño de crecer y darle un futuro mejor a sus hijos, nietos y bisnietos: recuerden que Donald Trump concluyó diciendo que el ‘American Dream’ está muerto, pero que él lo va a resucitar. Ahora la pregunta es, cómo va a hacer este hombre rico, privilegiado y de edad madura sin la sabiduría que debiera acompañar su sueño de poder cambiar el país.

Quizá empiece limpiándose el pedazo de saliva que le quedó en la comisura de la boca durante la última media hora del discurso.

FLORENCIA LLOSAS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Donald Trump speaking at the 2015 Conservative Political Action Conference amongst other GOP candidates. //Courtesy of Gage Skidmore
Dear Administration: 

Students Are More Than a Number

GABE WANISSIAN
Editor-in-Chief

The ominous storm cloud of strained relationships between Bergen Community College faculty, administration and poor morale that existed for many years, the downpour is finally upon us. It was back in the Spring 2014 semester that the Bergen Community College Faculty Association voted no confidence against BCC President B. Kaye Walter by a two-thirds margin, but with the sudden cuts of 64 lecturers, 150 part-time positions that occurred this summer, it is undeniable that the foundations of the student experience is being unhinged.

One could argue that, perhaps the rejections are merely a byproduct of the already heightened tension that is due to times of financial austerity, right? After all, the college’s state funds have decreased nearly $2 million over the past decade, and today’s economy is a precipitous drop in the level of the often romanticized Reagan Era of America. Yet, that does not address the fact that our county budget has returned to its 2010 levels after they restored the $3 million cut that occurred in 2012.

Perhaps the campus wide cuts allowed the school to avoid cuts in the future? I think not. The data points at Sussex Community College compared to 1.89 percent at BCC. It is a fair point on the surface, but the blemish called bad management cannot, and should not be ignored.

For starters, in this time of so called financial hardship, Bergen’s administrative executive team consisting of 12 people make $380,000 more today than they did in 2013: annually, they earn around $1.7 million total - enough money to pay 88 full-time lecturers.

It does not help when the college also creates a brand new fashion program - a brainchild of President Walter, while nearly every department is currently taking a hit. This is not a knock on the program itself, as it may very well provide a need for a specific student demographic, but it certainly is not the African American and Hispanic male demographic that BCC is so desperately trying to attract. Bergen, to itself, is the only extremists group out there and wars only happen in the Middle East.

What happens when student clubs and organizations that empower us to build lifelong connections, real word experience, and leadership qualities are having their budgets slashed?

Bergen Community College is an exceptional bed for students to go above and beyond, but until these questions can be answered, the storm cloud will continue to loom.

Middle East

Our Obsession with Middle East Turmoil

NOURA DAKKA
News Editor

What is the deal with news channels? It seems that they only think there is one part of the world to report on. I have come to realize, out of curiosity, to know what else is going on in other countries, but I guess the media does not. I literally flip through every news channel there is and they all are talking about the same thing, The Middle East. It is like chaos is happening no where else in the world. Channel after channel, Islamic State, a terrorist attack in Iraq, or Syrian Refugees. I am pretty definite that so much more is taking place in other countries, but it does not help things when the college also creates a brand new fashion program - a brainchild of President Walter, while nearly every department is currently taking a hit. This is not a knock on the program itself, as it may very well provide a need for a specific student demographic, but it certainly is not the African American and Hispanic male demographic that BCC is so desperately trying to attract. Bergen, to itself, is the only extremists group out there and wars only happen in the Middle East.

Online news articles also talk about similar issues occurring in The Middle East. And if it is not about the Middle East, it is definitely about some first world country, like Russia or Japan. I sit there and wonder “What about the rest of the world?”, besides the first world countries and The Middle East. I mean is killing only happening in Syria and Iraq? Is Iran the only country with nuclear weapons? Is The Islamic State the only radical regime in the world? I mean is there not countries we never even heard about. Once in a while, I come across an article that shocks me because it is shedding light on new issues. And who could ever forget when the college paid legal consultants John Schepisi Esq. and Marvin Goldstein Esq. a total of $545,000 in 2013 to finalize negotiations between Administration and faculty to finally provide a contract? The investment proved to be all for naught, as professors continue to work without a contract two years later.

What happens when student clubs and organizations that empower us to build lifelong connections, real world experience, and leadership qualities are having their budgets slashed? Bergen Community College is an exceptional bed for students to go above and beyond, but until these questions can be answered, the storm cloud will continue to loom.
Senior Radiology Students Remember Michelle Mian

ADRIAN VLLATOPA
co-editor

For two full years at Bergen Community College, if you enroll into the radiology program, you will never have to deal with seeing new faces every semester. A class unlike any other here at the college.

Radiology students at Bergen have the pleasure of learning and growing up with the same students throughout their years, which makes the classroom an extension of their family. A program lead by Joseph Mamatz and Elizabeth Romano, these students have a certain bond together that is difficult to break. Almost like a family.

As the class ran through the summer sessions, this tight-knit family lost a member on July 1. As Michelle Mian was walking towards her car early that morning, a nearby tree snapped and fell on top of her body. She was pronounced dead at Holy Name Medical Center, the same hospital Mian worked.

“She was outgoing, selfless. She always wanted to know something about everybody else.”

Michelle Mian would have graduated after the Spring of 2016 semester. She was a radiology student while working at the Holy Name Medical Center.

Described as a kind-hearted soul by both her radiology classmates and her family, Mian was also destined for great things.

“She was outgoing, selfless. She always wanted to know something about everybody else,” said Dana Raleigh, one of her classmates.

Classmate Chris Piano recalls a running gag the class had of calling her “Simba”, akin to the character of the same name from the Lion King, into the classroom. “I would be walking up to her seat, they would play “The Circle of Life” because of her big and lion mane-like hairstyle.”

Mamatz and Romano really emphasize on the family-like culture the class would develop through their two years together. “At graduation I basically ‘give them back’. I use that in my speech, ‘You’ve lent them to me for two years, I am now giving them back,’” says Mamatz.

“It takes some readjustment when they go back to the ‘regular life’,” he per says, “because you’re going back into the ‘real world’. You’re working. You have your life right back again,” he added.

“Life? What’s that?” classmate Andrew Delgado said jokingly.

When asked how the class will remember Michelle for the rest of the school year, Professor Romano said, “She had an infectious smile. One that would brighten everyone’s day.”

“When you saw her, you always saw the warmth come through,” added Professor Mamatz. “Smiling. Always smiling,” said Delgado.

For two full years at Bergen Community College, if you enroll into the radiology program, you will never have to deal with seeing new faces every semester. A class unlike any other here at the college.

Bergen Community College has some impressive individuals studying and working here, and Kyran Guerra, is one of them.

Kyran or “Ky”, as everyone calls him, is an employee of the school working for both the bookstore and the custodial department. He travels back and forth between the Paterson and Hackensack campuses as a part time student. Collectively, between working for the bookstore and as a custodian, Guerra works around 13 hours a day; he still finds time to do much more.

Ky writes and recites poetry, does spoken word, raps, performs, gives back to the community, and has started a clothing line with his friends.

Starting to get serious about his rapping when he was 19, he started with a group called Success Over Struggle. Now, he and his team brand themselves as Team MACHO, which stands for, Many Accomplishing Changes Over Time. Guerra has been doing spoken word for longer than he’s been doing rap and admits that he started off writing poetry for girls. He had written a piece for one of his ex girlfriend’s who had loved it and started off writing poetry for girls. He had written a piece for one of his ex girlfriend’s who had loved it and encouraged him to keep doing it, and he hasn’t stopped since.

Ky’s group and another group headed by Public Safety Officer Joquann Montgomery recently did a performance at the Englewood Teen Talent show where Nancy Jones, mother of rapper Jim Jones, attended, after finishing recording their first music video called “99.”

Guerra shows excitement for it, saying “It’s different seeing a video than being with it from the ground up, it’s totally two different things.”

Team MACHO also just released a new single called “Right Now” and Guerra himself is working on a spoken word piece called “Her Stories in a Jewelry Box.”

For Guerra, all the work he does is connected, saying “Rap is just a more urban form of poetry. “Poetry is just rap without a beat, acapella. Poetry is expressing your art without an instrumental,” he added.

He says that everyone is different, but for him, he does express more emotion in his poetry than in his hip hop.

“Ky” Guerra does hope to make money from what he does, but he shares greater enjoyment from letting people hear his thoughts and emotions.

“Real art, comes from real emotion,” he said.

After doing couple pieces for the fashion show at BCC, “We're a force to be reckoned with,” says Guerra.

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“Real art, comes from real emotion,” he said.
Bergen Community College’s current ambitious project, expansion and modernization, is now closer than ever to reaching fruition. The integrated Health Professions’ Building which is undergoing construction beside Pitkin will be home to all of BCC’s health profession programs, excluding Paramedics and Veterinary Technicians which the College has established elsewhere.

BCC President Dr. B. Kaye Walter commented that this project was “Very necessary.” The healthcare industry is not only one of the top industries in the state of New Jersey, but according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, it has been a growing sector of the American economy since 2009.

“It is where the jobs currently are and where the projected jobs will be in the future,” said Walter, “The industry has also changed over the years and our graduates need to be able to work effectively in teams in a setting similar to the modern health professions’ workspace.”

“Our current space does not allow for this to happen. The new space will be state-of-the-art and actually allow students to work in an environment similar to the workplace they will be working in when they graduate,” she added.

The college, however, will not see an increase in teaching staff. The current staff in the school’s medical programs will only transition into the new building upon completion, but according to Dr. Walter, “That will change if the new building facilitates considerable growth in the numbers of students enrolled in the programs.”

The building will house state of the art medical equipment for all programs. Head engineer Bob Coane, who has worked on previous Bergen constructions, called this project his most exciting work. His detailing of the construction process includes incorporating modern appliances and materials. He deemed it an “investment for the future.” There was, however, little priority in reducing energy consumption and the project’s overall carbon footprint.

The debate on what will become of the empty classrooms in Pitkin and Ender Hall will begin when the Health Professions Building opens. The school aims to renovate and repurpose the classrooms so that students outside the medical programs will occupy them, allowing those students to indirectly benefit from this construction project.

STEM programs will benefit the most from these renovations. As Dr. Walter explained, “Part of the space in Pitkin is scheduled to be renovated for undergraduate research labs. We are currently working with several university partners in the area to have some collaborative research programs for our STEM students. This will give them an advantage when they move on to the four year institutions.”

The funding that the school receives will decide whether or not this will happen. “There are lots of other ideas for the space in both Pitkin and Ender Hall but we will need to find funding for those ideas before we can decide if we can move forward with them or not,” said President Walter.

Construction was scheduled to reach completion by late January of 2016, but frequent weather delays have pushed the date tentatively to spring break. The president hopes that the first classes in the new building will be held at the start of the next summer.
Walter: “It is where the jobs currently are and where the projected jobs will be in the future.”

Head engineer Bob Coane mentioned that the first floor (pictured above) is where most of the medical equipment will be located.
KNOW YOUR PORTAL & CHECK YOUR EMAIL
If you have ever been to Academic Advising at room A-118, you will be asked repeatedly if you know your login information. Your Portal account provides you with access to things like your class registration, payment deadlines, financial aid, email, class cancellations, grades, schedule, and so much more. Don’t be the student that waits in line every semester to register for classes. Your program evaluation (which tells you all the classes you need to graduate) can be accessed from your Portal account. Once you familiarize yourself with Portal, you need to graduate can be accessed from your Portal account. Once you familiarize yourself with Portal, you can also register for your classes through your Portal account, as well as view your time and tuition. All communication that comes through the college or your professors will be funneled through this email, located in your Portal account. If you don’t check it, you will simply miss out on important updates and information which will only hurt you in the long run.

SHOW UP
As absolutely obvious as it may be to some students, there is nothing more rewarding as a life skill than arriving early. By getting to class even 5 minutes early shows your professor and your classmates that you’re serious about your education. It also doesn’t hurt if you need those few extra attendance points on your final grade.

FREE HELP
Everything, other than tuition and food, is virtually free. Take advantage of the free tutoring, library, advising, student life, and computer center. Whether it’s you, your parents, or the government paying for your tuition, the money is being spent on making this variety of resources available to you. The college offered more than $530,000 for 473 scholarships last year for every kind of resource available to you. The college offered more than $530,000 for 473 scholarships last year for every kind of student. Often times, the money remains invisible due to a lack of applicants, so keep applying! Visit the scholarship office in room L-340 for more information. Speak to your professor’s, email them and keep in touch. All professors list their contact information on the syllabus in case you have questions. They have office hours for a reason, use them!

MICHELLE PEREZ
LAYOUT EDITOR

No Money? Have Some Coffee Anyway!

GET INVOLVED
It’s never too late and never a bad idea to get involved. From Student Government to the Knitting Club, Phi Theta Kappa to The Torch, Black Student Union to P.R.I.D.E., there are over 40 clubs and organizations on campus. There genuinely is something for everyone. Studies have shown that students who are involved in extracurricular activities, do better academically than the students who aren’t and four year universities like to see that students have been involved in their previous schools. Even if a club doesn’t suit you, there are a number of academic groups and athletic teams that might float your boat. Getting involved not only helped me navigate my way through college, but it landed me a job and sent me across the country. Find your interest or start your own club at the Office of Student Life in room L-340 near the information desk. Stay tuned for more tips and tricks about BCC in future editions of The Torch. You can contact the writer of this article at npere64280@me.bergen.edu

THE STEM crew has proved their ability to launch and recover their own high altitude balloon, along with the payload package. Post-flight analysis indicated that the balloon reached an altitude of roughly 110,000 feet, making it an astronomical success!

Around 1:07 p.m., Peter Lehrer detected touchdown of the balloon at a location approximately 50 miles south of the launch site. The STEM students immediately pack up their equipment, got back into their vehicles, and raced to be first to recover the precious payload which they hoped had landed safely. Satellite imagery from Google Earth indicated that the location of the package was in a wooded area, adjacent to an abandoned automobile drag strip on private land.

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Students interested in participating in the balloon project or any other projects within the STEM Student Union, feel free to go to the STEM Student Laboratory in room S315 for more information.

Steve Cohen, as well as Dennis Montone and Mark Tronicke of Bergen County Technical Schools, act as consultants. Once ground preparations were complete, at roughly 11:09 a.m., the balloon was released.
The void left by Bergen Community College’s former Dean of Student Conduct has now been filled by Rachel Lerner-Colucci. Growing up in the Hudson Valley, update New York, Lerner spent a year in Switzerland as a foreign exchange student during high school. Immediately after this experience, Lerner began her career in student affairs.

“When I came home from my exchange year, I was asked to help get the new exchange students ready for their orientation. I was mentoring, helping with the application process, and helping the students understand the experiences they were about to go on,” said Lerner. The experience shined a light on her, and she decided “It kind of opened my eyes to the work I like to do with the students. This is one of the key moments that I would say defined my career.”

Her interest in student affairs stemmed from being student herself, as well as taking on roles as a counsel committee, teen tour director, foreign exchange student counselor, advisor, and mentor. While she attended Ulster County Community College, she worked in the office of student activities. Lerner was active in the Greek life, and was a mentor to underclassmen, which led her even further into her career in student affairs.

After graduating from Ulster County Community College, she transferred onto a four year institution and got her Bachelor’s degree in Communications with a minor in German Language and Literature from the University at Buffalo (SUNY). She then stayed at the University of Buffalo and got her Masters of Education in Educational Administration.

While she was going to graduate school, she worked in the Office of Student Life with the Student Programming Board, the Student Government Association, and the Athletics Programming. She was also a Graduate Student Advisor to a sorority. She taught a freshman course, UBE-101 University Experience.

Rachel Lerner took her first professional position after graduating from graduate school at SUNY Maritime College in the Bronx, as their Director of Student Activities. Her professional responsibilities grew as she took on Orientation, worked in Residence Life and Student Conduct, and eventually became the Director of Student Programs. In the spring of 2008, she worked as a Resident Director for a semester at sea. She got to travel around the globe on a ship, with over 500 students, to many countries and ports of call. She also taught the LEAD101 - Introduction to Student Success, Leadership, and the Maritime Experience course experience.

After that, she went back to Maritime College and continued on as the Director of Student Activities and Orientation. In 2010, she went to Dominican College, in Orangeburg, NY, as their Assistant Dean of Students, which is where she was before she began working at Bergen Community College.

“The void left by Bergen’s former Dean of Student Conduct and Orientations. In 2010, she went to Dominican College, in Orangeburg, NY, as their Assistant Dean of Students, which is where she was before she began working at Bergen Community College.

“I had an incredible start here at Bergen. I’m so excited to be a part of the leadership here and doing what I love, which is to work with students. I’ve only been here a few weeks, but I’ve already had a lot of positive feedback from the students and the administration.”

Lerner-Colucci admits to being a busy lady, since she is married with two small children, but that doesn’t take away from her finding enjoyment in the things she does, adding “I love going to work every day, helping students achieve their dreams and their potential, and I love being a part of the community.”

“Bergen is a little different from the previous institution that I worked on, since it is a community college,” as she was most recently working at four-year institutions. “But that’s ok, because I strongly believe in the exceptional value and the mission of a community college, and in the foundation that it provides to students.”

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No Money? Have Some Coffee Anyway!

LUCIA RUBI GODOY

The Pending Coffee idea is a practice that started in Europe with the purpose of helping those who need it most. The project allows for anyone to pay for a coffee in advance for those who do not have the resources to buy one for themselves; and it has now spread to the United States in a slightly modified fashion.

In a similar system, Rosa’s Fresh Pizza in Philadelphia allows customers to pay for slices of pizza in advance. Thanks to this idea, many homeless people, and people who simply don’t have enough money that day can still have a free but satisfying slice of pizza.

This practice has extended itself to other parts of the world, and we spoke to the employees of Charola, the first restaurant-bazaar in the city of La Plata, Argentina to implement this system of charity. They have strongly recommended implementing the Pending Coffee practice in Bergen County because of its success.

“The owner of the restaurant brought back the idea after she went on a trip to Italy,” said Nicólaï Fialache Ugarte, the waiter we interviewed at Charola. “It worked out so well that they started doing it here in La Plata.” The restaurant actually charges customers only 60 percent of what a regular coffee is usually charged.

In this way, and by paying for any extra needed coffees, the restaurant plays an important part on making this system work.

No Money? Have Some Coffee Anyway!

LATTE

The Pending Coffee practice is a great idea that started in Europe with the purpose of helping those who need it most. The project allows for anyone to pay for a coffee in advance for those who do not have the resources to buy one for themselves; and it has now spread to the United States in a slightly modified fashion.

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According to the permanent survey of homes elaborated by the National Institution of Statistics and Census (Also known as Instituto Nacional de Estadísticas y Censos, or INDEC) The population in the County of La Plata, located in Buenos Aires, Argentina, has a total of 1.6 percent homeless. According to the US Census Bureau. Also, Pasaccio County’s population has a 16.3 percent of its population living below the poverty level many of which go to Bergen Community College, or work in Bergen County.

These numbers represent the bare minimum of the homeless that can be accounted for in Bergen and Passaic counties. With such a significant amount of homeless people in the county, many feel that implementing the pending coffee would be a class way to help out impoverished people.

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Bergen Community College and Fairleigh Dickinson University are partnering to offer you a more affordable path to a bachelor’s degree. Graduate with your associate’s degree from BCC, and you will be eligible to transfer to a FDU bachelor’s program at a significant tuition discount. Benefits include:

- **40% tuition reduction** for undergraduate programs, which can also be applied to some master’s degrees at FDU
- **Additional grants may be available** for resident students, NJSTARS and students graduating with a 3.5+ GPA

Questions? Visit Almida Hernandez, FDU’s on-site advisor, Monday-Friday at the Pitkin Education Center, Room A126

alhernan@fdu.edu or BCC-FDUScholars@fdu.edu

201-493-4088
ISRA ELDOSOUGI'S CLS STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE

The Critical Language Scholarship is a program available for undergraduate and graduate students who are interested in studying critical languages in other countries overseas. It’s fully funded and seeks students with wide ranges of interest and will be able to apply what they learn to future skills.

After the first CLS information session was given at Bergen Community College, 10 BCC students applied.

Isra Eldosougi, a student at Bergen Community College, was one of the CLS scholarship recipients, and was able to study Arabic in Madaba, Jordan on an intense, yet eye-opening expedition.

Coming from a Sudanese background, a big part of why she chose Arabic is that she wants to learn her native language. Unlike most other languages offered by CLS, Arabic does require at least one year of prior study, being one of the more difficult languages to learn.

“The program is really intense. We’re in class from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. every day, and if you have tutoring or need extra help, that’s after,” she said. Additionally, three to eight hours of homework every day sounds like a nightmare, as well as fitting a year of study into an eight to 10 week time period, but as Eldosougi explained, “No matter how positive and everyone is so motivated to just get it done. There isn’t a real penalty to not doing your homework, because ultimately you’ll only hinder your own learning.”

The classmates were from all over the country, ranging from 19 to 30 years old, most of them already fluent in several languages. “It was really nice because 27 of us were automatically friends,” she said.

She added, “Most of us tried to carry it out outside of just school and home, we tried our best not to stick to the language,” as they had a language pledge where it was mandatory to speak Arabic at home and at school.

Host families made up a huge part of the experience. Each student was assigned a host family, who was made up of people whose goal was to care for the student for the duration of the program. “We had a really good relationship with them. We really felt like our host family’s homes were our homes—We were really blessed,” said Eldosougi.

There was a really high Christian population in Madaba. “I think it’s a misconception that when people think Arab they automatically think Muslim,” said Eldosougi. “You could see that people had their differences in what they viewed and you could see that people, didn’t agree on certain points, but everyone accepted each other.”

There were so many things the group did for fun; “we went to Petra, which is one of the seven wonders of the world. We went to Mount Nebo, which is of an elevated part of Jordan; You can see the Dead Sea from there, you can see Palestine from there, and Mount Nebo is known for Moses traveling through it. We went to the Dead Sea and swam in it. It was awesome,” she said.

Aside from historical, and natural landmarks, Eldosougi and company enjoyed various forms of entertainment, such as seeing Arab pop star Nancy Ajram live, a rap concert, and an indie rock concert in a Roman amphitheatre.

Eldosougi’s favorite trip was to a place called Wadi Rum, which is a valley in southern Jordan. During the day, the group went on Jeep caravan ride through the desert climbing up huge sand dunes. They visited a Bedouin camp where a Bedouin tour guide showed them how to rip up a type of plant and mix it with water to make soap and use a type of red rock to make makeup.

“There’s light pollution in Amman and Madaba, but when you went to Wadi Rum, the stars were sparkling and the sky was black, and I loved it.”

Graduation was attended by host families, teachers, and students. They all sang a song, and some students chose to do dabke, a popular form of arab folk dancing. One student even did a rap in Arabic.

“I really thought that I had to work really hard in my life now and then later on I would be able to enjoy it,” said Eldosougi. “I think this trip made me realize that I can enjoy my life now. Everyone made it so simple to travel. You don’t have to plan to go and travel in the future. You can
NFL’s Tim Wright Meet and Greet At Bergen

Through the Office of Multicultural Affairs and Bergen Community College brought one of 2014-15 Superbowl winning NFL players, current Tampa Bay Buccaneer Tim Wright to do a Meet-and-Greet as well as one-day football camp.

Wright has started an organization called The Wright Way Academy as stated on its website, “The mission of The Wright Way Academy is to foster underprivileged children by bridging the gap between athletics, academics, and the quality of life. This eclectic guidance will give them the tools and opportunities necessary to make positive choices, enhance their nutrition, reject violence and excel athletically and academically, producing successful adults who will serve as examples to the children who come after them.”

On the night of July 10, Wright, along with his family and organization came to BCC and spent the night meeting with members of the school, talking about his organization, why he started it and what his goals are. Wright spoke about how many pro football players do not place a lot of value in education and that 78 percent of players are bankrupt or under financial stress within two years of retiring. For him, family, faith and education were extremely important and he wants to give back to his community, which is why he started The Wright Way Academy. “We need to extend ourselves to create something to meet the needs of the community,” he said.

During the night, Dr. Ursula Daniels, Executive Assistant to the President at BCC, also spoke and shared words of encouragement for Wright’s organization. She talked about how she used to play basketball, so she understands the importance of both sports and education for young people. Her, along with the other heads of the Office of Multicultural Affairs, Aretha McMillan and Ron McKnight met with Mr. Wright at his first event and decided to bring him here to BCC.

Since TWWA is still in its infancy, holding its first event back in June called Friday Night Lights where young people ages seven to 18 were invited to take part in a “skills, combine and academic exposure camp, taught by NFL players and community leaders.” The second event TWWA held was the one here at BCC, another exposure camp, the day after the meet-and-greet.

We asked Wright if he placed more importance on academics or sports and what he thought of the fact that a majority of pro players go bankrupt after leaving the NFL. He told us that for student athletes, he feels that academics and sports are weighed equally. “A lot of guys aren’t educated financially,” he went on to say, “and when they get that financial gain, they splurge on things that they never had.”

“Something where they would be supplied with the resources and the platform to be able to identify themselves and reach out to different community leaders and grow as a person, and that will ultimately translate to the field, to the court of whatever sport they play.”

Sports continued below

NFL Summertime Recap

Football fans everywhere, rejoice! The first month of flying pigskin and testosterone will be upon us soon, and our 100-yard fields will once again be plowed by players flying pigskin and testosterone will be upon us soon, and our 100-yard fields will once again be plowed by players

We know that JPP’s right index finger was amputated after a fireworks accident, but the full extent of his injuries have not been described. Whether or not this will affect the Giant’s defence is compensated by the fact that Victor Cruz and Odell Beckham Jr. will make their presence known in the field again.

Tom Coughlin is said to be in the hotseat after the Giant’s poor performance last season, but his seat has always been warmed by the hateful fans crying for a change in head coach. Coaches come and go, but never has the NFL seen a female coach until Arizona hired Jen Walter. Although just an intern, she is the first female to hold a coaching position of any kind in the league.

San Francisco’s Aldon Smith found trouble with the law after a hit and run, vandalism, and DUI incident. Seattle fans might smirk at the news, and perhaps more so at the fact that Russell Wilson’s contract drama ended with an extension and raise. Members of the Seahawks’ Legion of Boom also signed contract extensions, making them a formidable defence until 2017.

Green Bay’s domination of the NFC North may have been jeopardized by Jordy Nelson’s season-ending injury, more so with the return of Viking Adrian Peterson. The killing of Cecil the Lion was truly a tragedy, but no one seems to mourn for the Detroit Lions.

The 2015 season will kick off with Pittsburgh facing against New England.
**CAPTAIN’S CORNER:**

**Suffering From Mets Fan Syndrome - Recovery**

By GABE WANISSIAN

Being a Mets fan is fun again. It took nine years of historic collapses, embarrassing executive decisions, mind-numbing levels of boneheaded plays, and star players being bit by the injury bug; but the PTSD of Mets fandom has finally healed. No, Mets isn’t the sexy woman who will have all eyes on her, but this time, she made it to the dancefloor. She has arrived, now lets hope she can dance and hold a good conversation.

**Women’s Sports: Not a Joke**

By MELISSA PEREZ

Sports bras, tampons and all, women athletes are taking over the world of sports. Women have come a long way from batting in skirts to having their own professional basketball league. Men are still the heroes of sports, dominating every sport channel, but with the hard work that I’ve seen these athletes display so far, nothing but good things are to come. Every push-up, sprint and squat we do, makes us faster, stronger and more capable on the court!

This year, their focus will be on an aspect in their gameplay which has given them headaches in the past. Their coach commented that, “in the past, we’ve struggled with communication on the court and playing aggressive, but smart. If you don’t communicate to your teammates well, it doesn’t matter how powerful your hitters are or how reactive your defense is. Communication is the key to success.”

She added “This year we’ll focus on being our best at all aspects of the game, but specifically in our communication with each other. If we respect each other’s ability and communicate to help lessen our weaknesses, we will go far this year.”

**Girls That Bite**

by GELBER CASTILLO

There’s nothing delicate about the Bulldogs in the women’s volleyball team. The start of the new semester coincides with the start of a new season for the girls, led by veteran Coach Heléne Liaci. In an interview for The Torch, Coach Liaci let us know that the girls aspire to become a regional powerhouse.

“I am very excited to see what this season brings,” says Liaci, “We have a long road ahead of us, but with the hard work that I’ve seen these athletes display so far, nothing but good things are to come. Every push-up, sprint and squat we do, makes us faster, stronger and more capable on the court!”

This year, their focus will be on an aspect in their gameplay which has given them headaches in the past. Their coach commented that, “in the past, we’ve struggled with communication on the court and playing aggressive, but smart. If you don’t communicate to your teammates well, it doesn’t matter how powerful your hitters are or how reactive your defense is. Communication is the key to success.”

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**Women’s Soccer Team**

The highlight of this summer was the US women soccer team’s domination of the FIFA World Cup. On July 5th, 2015, the US women won the World Cup and celebrated a 5-2 US victory. The game was won after a dominant first round win, after dominating Bethe Correia; adding to her 12 victories and zero losses.

The majority of recognition; women can still be no different.”

“I’m pushing them to their limits in training,” said the coach. “Practice is the name of the game.”

This year we know what we have to do, not only to make the tournament, but to advance. This year we want the championship game,” said the coach. Practice is the name of the game right now, but optimism spurs the girls forward. “It’s always interesting to see who steps up when I’m pushing them to their limits in training,” says Coach Liaci. The attitude toward yourself and others, good things will come. I have a feeling this is going to be a good season. August 25 marks the start of the season.
A new season is looming for Bergen Community College’s men’s soccer team. The Bulldogs are following a loss in the Region 19 Championship game to Camden County College. Under three year head coach Fredy Herrera and newly appointed assistant coach Giovanni Soto, a team of new faces has the task of bringing the Bulldogs to glory once again. With under three year head coach Fredy Herrera and newly appointed assistant coach Giovanni Soto, a team of new faces has the task of bringing the Bulldogs to glory once again. With Herrera in the past. Being in the same spot as the newer players, learning and growing as the season goes on, Soto believes it makes the transition easier. He hopes to help develop the first-year players into the next level of competitive soccer. “I see a lot of their tendencies that I’ve seen in high school players,” said Soto, “The tendencies that they have will not be won without the players putting forth great effort daily, my coaches preparing the players for top competition, and lastly executing daily plans to improve.”

Veteran baseball coach Steven Mimms was named NJCAA Region XIX Coach of the Year earlier this May. Known for heartily voicing his passion at umpires for unpopular calls, Coach Mimms engineered his team into a formidable weapon. “We had a great season,” said Coach Mimms, “and for first time ever we beat every top team in the region in the same season... Every year we are getting better and going further.”

Last season marked a deep run into the regionals, where their momentum ended in a game against Rowan College. They ended their season with a 22-14 record. “Every coach wants to win this award but at the same time winning the championship is the biggest goal,” said Mimms. Despite not achieving the greatest sought-after goal, Coach Mimms calls the 2015 season “a huge step forward for Bergen baseball.”

His players and coaching staff were not without a part in his achievement. He acknowledged that, “An award like this can't be won without the players putting forth great effort daily, my coaches preparing the players for top competition, and lastly executing daily plans to improve.”

Veteran baseball coach Steven Mimms was named NJCAA Region XIX Coach of the Year earlier this May. Known for heartily voicing his passion at umpires for unpopular calls, Coach Mimms engineered his team into a formidable weapon. “We had a great season,” said Coach Mimms, “and for first time ever we beat every top team in the region in the same season... Every year we are getting better and going further.”

Last season marked a deep run into the regionals, where their momentum ended in a game against Rowan College. They ended their season with a 22-14 record. “Every coach wants to win this award but at the same time winning the championship is the biggest goal,” said Mimms. Despite not achieving the greatest sought-after goal, Coach Mimms calls the 2015 season “a huge step forward for Bergen baseball.”

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Bergen’s very own Blake Smith, Junior Nasi, and Jim Fitzgerald were also included in the 2015 All Region Team. “High school players should look at Bergen as a great place not only to learn but to play high level baseball,” said Coach Mimms, concerning the quality of his players, “I am looking forward to Bergen continuing its development into a powerhouse in the region.”

Undoubtedly, his coaching approach and methodology are what led him to the award. “There is a lot that goes into coaching,” he said, “so being prepared with well thought out daily plans is essential. It is also about adjustments, so you must be aware of the type of opponent you’re going against, type of team you have and know that each player is different.”

Bergen baseball will not see its first game until next spring. Coach Mimms, however, was explicit in that “the Bulldogs are hungry for the school’s first championship in baseball, and we will be committed to competing for the banner.”