

BCC Slashes Lecturer, Part-Time Positions

Part 1: Over 60 Lecturers gone

GABE WANISSIAN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The 64 full-time lecturers and 150 part-time position cuts that occurred over the summer as cost cutting measures are signs of a “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. “I needed it to meet my requirement to graduate with honors.”

For the lecturers not returning as adjuncts, there may be difficulties in finding full-time jobs elsewhere at this time of the year, said Communication Department Chair Professor Elin Schickler. “It makes things difficult for them.”

Former lecturer Clifford Evan Weinstein wrote an opinion piece for The Record back on August 12, criticising the college’s move and saying that both the effect in morale and reduced working conditions going from lecturer to adjunct may negatively impact the faculties ability to execute their job optimally.



Not-reappointed lecturer positions occurred about a month before the first day of class.
illustration by Jessica Rodriguez//The Torch.

“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.”

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Part 2: 150
part-time
positions cut**



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a Student
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SGA President's Letter to Students



President Laura Zottarelli is pictured above.
Photo credit to Iness Rabah //The Torch

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 issues. For example, we have been working on the pay to print initiative and surveyed students to potentially get a free limit of printing.

Although there are upsetting cuts within the college, we are persevering through this together. We will overcome it to be stronger as an institution and as an organization. If you're a student and have a concern, please stop by our office room A-101 and express it so we can work on it to fulfill our students' needs.

I hope you are all ready to challenge the new year that is coming and grab onto the opportunities as given to you. When you feel like giving up, stay positive. Go the extra mile, push past your boundaries and be bold. Senator applications are currently out, stop by our office to pick one up if you are interested and become part of our voice!

Sincerely,
Laura Zottarelli

Part 2: 150 part-time positions cut

GABE WANISSIAN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

continued from front page

Numerous part-time staff learned on June 30, they would either have their hours reduced or let go from their positions, effective immediately.

"It had nothing to do with what they have done for the college, because a lot of them did an excellent job for the college," said Executive Director of Human Resources, Jim Miller.

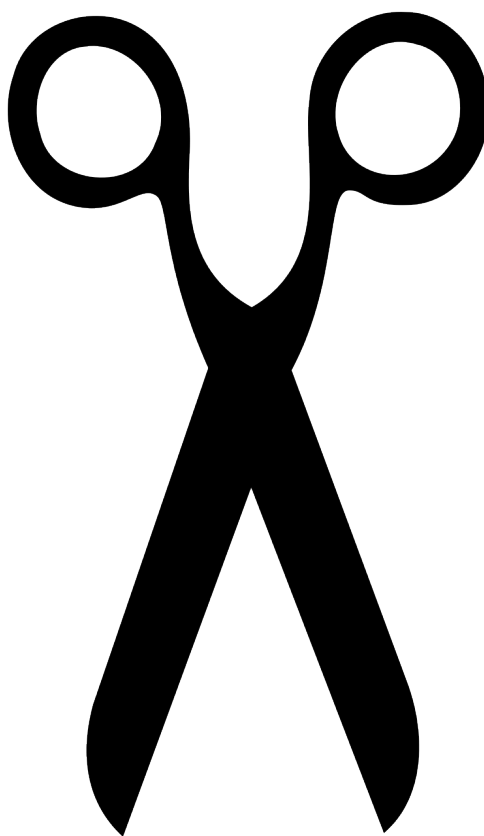
Once the cuts went in motion during July's Board of Trustees meeting, Miller was informed by BCC Chairman E. Carter Corrison to send a letter out to former part time employees, seven days after they were relieved of their duties.

Both the Math and English Department offices were closed for the following week, and thus unable to assist students. The reason was that the part time secretaries were no longer present to cover for the full time secretaries who were away on vacation, said Faculty Senate Chair and professor Dr. Alan Kaufman at the July BOT meeting.

"It was difficult, to be honest, to sit them down and tell them that this was it. Especially for the ones who worked here for a lengthy period of time," said Theatre supervisor Tom O'Neill.

O'Neill expressed concern for safety after the formerly eight person part time staff possibly got narrowed down to one, until it was agreed with Human Resources to keep four part-timers. "If you start cutting back on people, there will be less people taking care of those things, and that's the workshop, lighting, soundbooth and [the Ciccone Theatre and Ender Hall Lab Theatre stages]," said O'neil, "It becomes a risk for people on stage."

The Theatre Department also received a 15 percent cut in their budget, which may affect production quality, said Bergenstages producer Jim Bumgardner. "I remain



hopeful, but this is a reality that we are facing today. I know there are things we will not be able to do now, so 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 retreats 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 Lyndhursts part-time Academic Counselor Katie Heir was let go, BCC counselors from the Paramus campus began seeing students once a month at the Meadowlands campus alongside office assistant Maggie McCarthy.

"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 into whatever area based on the needs of the students and based on the needs of the institution," said BCC spokesman Larry Hlavenka, Jr.

Sanders: #FeeltheBern

SAMUEL MCLAUGHLIN
COPY EDITOR

Bernie Sanders' unfailing ability to appeal to the younger generation of voters has placed him in a favorable position in the poles 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 3, 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.

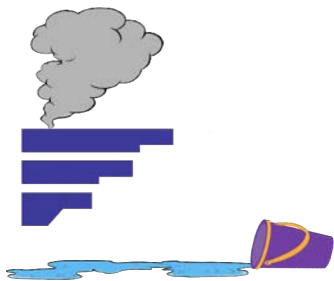


"As president I will fight to make every public college and university in America tuition-free,"
Said Sanders during an Oakland, Calif. Conference
Photo courtesy of MCTCampus

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 much too low impacts everybody, impacts the African American community even more," at a town hall meeting in Phoenix, Ariz. on July 18.

One of the Vermont senator's most radical notions, among many others, is his idea to make it possible for all public colleges and universities to offer free tuition. Sanders is calling it the "College for All Act," where the bill would theoretically eliminate the \$70 billion dollar tuition costs at all 4-year public colleges and universities. "In a global economy, when our young people are competing with workers from around the world, we have got to have the best educated workforce possible. That means that we have got to make college affordable," Sanders says.

Though Sanders' ideas are widely popular, there is a lot of scepticism surrounding from democrats and republicans alike. Sanders has presented these plans with careful calculations, and has struck a chord with voters. For others, there is still more to be seen from this ambitious senator.



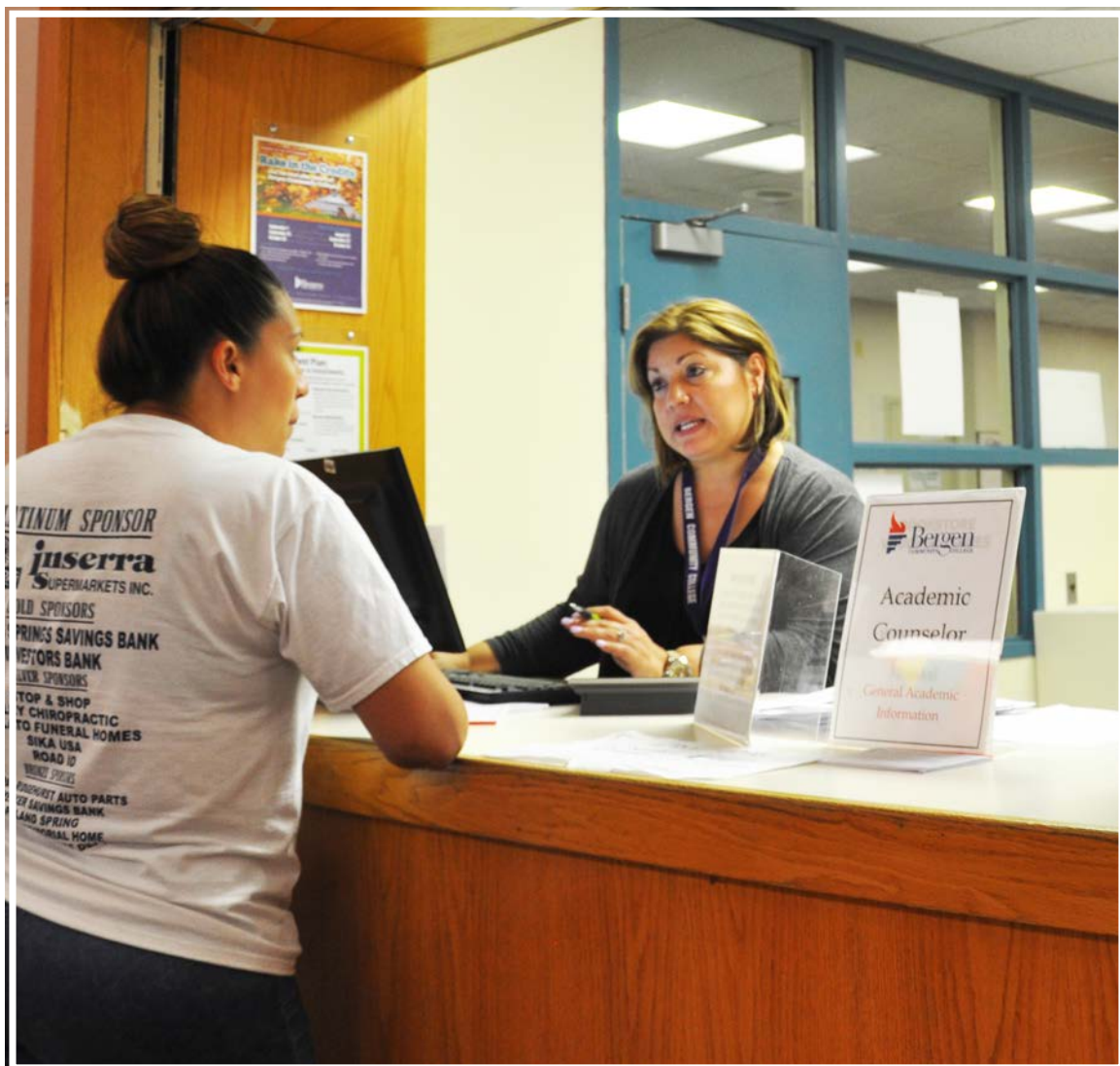
NEWS

The Torch

Financial Aid and Scholarships Provide Student Aid

GABE WANISSIAN AND FLORENCIA LLOSAS

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF & CONTRIBUTING WRITER



Student speaking with worker from Financial Aid. //Photo credit to Jessica Rodriguez //The Torch

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 we 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

FLORENCIA LLOSAS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

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 organic agriculture...anything that will maximize the bees," said the 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

Bergens gardens grow a wide array of both edible vegetables and floral plants. //Florescia Llosas //The Torch

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.

BCC Gets Second Observatory in Lyndhurst



The Lyndhurst observatory is the second of its kind owned by Bergen Community College
Iness Rabah//The Torch

INESS RABAH
LAYOUT EDITOR

The William D. McDowell Observatory in Lyndhurst will now be operated by Bergen Community College professors. They will be leading free observations that are open to the public every Wednesday night from 8:30 to 10:30 p.m. The observatory is located in New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority's DeKorte Park Plaza complex.

Spectators get to see numerous celestial objects such as constellations, binary stars, the moon, and planets such as Saturn and its rings. There will also be a special lunar eclipse showing on Sunday, September 27 from 7:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. About 3,000 people visit observatory events every year, and there were over 500 visitors in the month of August alone. It is in short proximity of the BCC Lyndhurst campus and students with the Meadowlands Environment Center are also free to use the observatory.

The telescope itself is a state-of-the-art 20 inch lens research telescope under a six meter dome. It has filters that can lessen light pollution effects, and cameras that can photograph space objects. There is also a photometer that measures the brightness of stars and their variations.

It also features a spectroscope to determine the chemical composition of light emitting objects by analyzing their wavelengths.

The William D. McDowell Observatory was previously owned by Ramapo College since its opening in 2008, until July 16 of this year when an agreement was signed by BCC and NJSEA officials. "The New Jersey Sports Authority got together with the Meadowlands Environmental Commission and united into one group and during that process, the observatory was closed over there. They asked us if we would like to take it over and we are very lucky to have Professor John Sloan who has been running our observatory," PJ Ricatto, Dean of Mathematics, Sciences, and Technology, explained. BCC now owns the only two public observatories in Bergen County.

"These educators have a wealth of experience that will greatly benefit visitors and inspire a healthy curiosity and interest in science education among young people" said Wayne Hasenbalg, President and CEO of the NJSEA.

Observatory times change with seasons, so be sure to check for times before making your visit. The Emil Buehler Trust Observatory on the BCC Paramus campus located in the Technology building is still operating on Friday nights from 8 to 10 p.m. throughout the year.

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ALWAYS ON

Trump for President...for Real This Time



Trump(Left) 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 will never make America great again. They don't even have a chance."

Trump has been fighting to regain the hearts of some of the voters after he made some comments about John McCain that were generally frowned upon. "He's a war hero because he was captured. I like people who weren't captured," 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.

"When Mexico sends its people, they're not sending their best. They're not sending you. 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 rapists. 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.



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OPINIONS

The Torch

El detractor del “American Dream” Mexicano: Donald Trump



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

FLORENCIA LLOSAS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

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, él 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 acompañarla para rearmar un sueño que nació del sudor, esfuerzo y esperanza de los inmigrantes jóvenes en busca de una vida mejor?

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

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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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.

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Dear Administration: Students Are More Than a Number

GABE WANISSIAN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

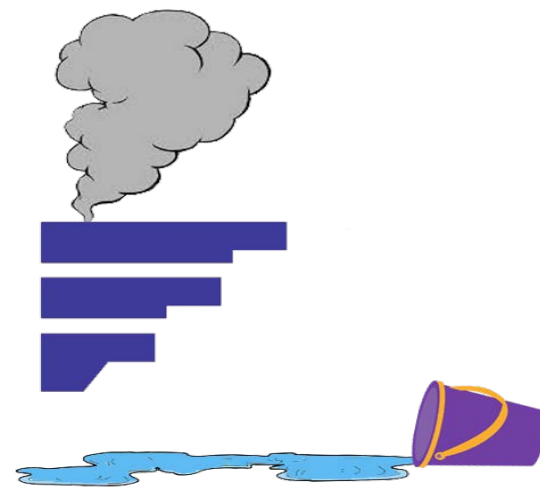
The ominous storm cloud of strained relationships between Bergen Community College faculty, administration and poor morale that existed on campus loomed over Bergen students for years; the downpour is finally upon us. It was back in the Spring 2014 semester that the Bergen Community College Faculty Association 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 reactions are merely a byproduct of the already heightened sensitivities that exist 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 not exactly thriving at 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 \$5 million cut that occurred in 2012.

Perhaps the campus wide cuts allowed the school to avoid outrageous increases in school tuition (10 percent 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 for a semester.

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 yearns to improve graduation rates in. The creation of the program comes after the college enacted a hiring freeze during the spring semester due to budget constraints.



The recent turn of events have seemingly "doused" Bergens Flame.
Illustration by Jessica Rodriguez

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.

Fast forward to today; fantastic lecturers are being chased out by the boatload nearly a month before the beginning of a semester, and then being asked to come back with a fraction of the pay and no benefits. How can we expect that professor to teach at the same level? Or even worse, what if the professor opted not to return, forcing a department chair to go on a witch hunt to find an adjunct who may or may not be appropriately qualified?

How can a student expect the same outstanding service when cuts in staff are occurring to various offices such as the Math and English Department, Center for Student Success, Academic Advising, Registration, and the Nursing staff counselors to name a few?

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 hot bed for students to go above and beyond, but until these questions can be attended to in a fashion that is in the student's best interest, I cannot say that BCC's resources are being used to the most optimal fashion to maintain its greatness.

So here is my plea to Administration: let's put the numbers game aside, because it's that very game of 'corporate bottom line'-ship that has become the prevailing train of thought amongst Administrators at Bergen; you can put a number on budgets and graduation rates, but you can't put a number on the student experience.



Why does the Arab World seem to get all the attention?
Photo courtesy of Flickr

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 really have the 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.

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 am pretty definite that so much more is taking place in 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. But I mostly, feel like the media is stressing on the known too much and not stressing enough on where there is a real extraordinary story to report. The Middle East is not the only place with all that turmoil; there are 196 countries on this planet and the media focuses on about 10. Is it really journalism when you report the same story over and over again? I understand that there is so much going on in Middle Eastern countries, but it is not like that is something new. We know about the bombings in Afghanistan, we know that Syria is under

war, and we know the what the Islamic State has been doing. Tell us something we do not know?

Rarely does the media introduce Myanmar Buddhist extremists that have been killing the Rohingyas, an Islamic minority in Myanmar. When neither Sri Lanka or Burma are facing an Islamic threat and yet religious Buddhists are boycotting anything to do with Muslims and even attacking mosques and burning homes, the media does not find that fulfilling enough to be breaking news. There are also Indian Hindus who threaten to kill Christians if they just mention the name of Christ alone. Christian Indians are now fleeing their homeland because of the threats. I believe that should be all over the news by now. At least emphasize on the matter righteously. Mainstream Media have people thinking that The Islamic State is the only extremists group out there and wars only happen in the Middle East.

To be fair, news stories like that are out there, however they are not stressed on enough or as much as Middle Eastern issues. These extremists are just as equal as the Islamic State. There is tumult happening everywhere, even in seemingly peaceful places. The media needs to start reporting on the world instead of The Middle East alone, and the first world countries at times. Also, it would not kill them to report some positive news; it is not always blood and sacrifice. I understand the fact that wherever the news is, we follow, on the other hand it is good to keep it balanced and rightful. "An ethical journalist acts with integrity".

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





Mets! Mets! Mets!
pg. 15

Meet Your New Dean
pg. 11

Childhood Development
Center
pg. 13



FEATURES

The Torch

Senior Radiology Students Remember Michelle Mian

ADRIAN YLLATOPA
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 that first walked into the classroom your first day. 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. Courtesy of Facebook

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. As she 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’, per say, because now you’re going back into the ‘real world’. You’re working. You have your life 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 went from ear to ear.”

“When you saw her, you always saw the warmth come through,” added Professor Mamatz.

“Smiling. Always smiling,” said Delgado.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: KYRAN GUERRA

LUIS ARI LOPEZ WEI
FEATURES EDITOR

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 Paramus 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 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 entitled, “My Superstar” and “A Monday Morning” - the works focused around about his parents. His mother kicked him out of his home when he was 19 and he’s been on his own since then, using a lot of what he feels about his parents in his work. Another one of his pieces called “Designer” talks about how often people kill each other over material things. He wrote the piece after seeing on the news that someone had been trampled to death over a pair of Jordans. “How can somebody take a life over something that can be bought?” he said. Ky’s cousin came up with the name Team



The hard-working Guerra still finds his creative outlet through poetry. Luis Ari Lopez Wei //The Torch

MACHO growing up in Weehawken, NJ in a largely Hispanic area, and the idea behind it is to stand as role models for urban youth. “We don’t want to be anybody else,” Guerra says, “we don’t want to be like the people selling drugs, we don’t want to be the group gangbanging, we just want to be influencing the urban youth. The whole idea behind many accomplishing changes, is to get something done positively.”

A plan to start a clothing line with him and his team, Jordii Martin and Jovan Campbell, grew out of wanting to create a united image for the group. The logo, an “M” with a chain around it represents that unity and

strength. Today, they’re already selling a number of different clothing items and are working on more.

“Ky” and his group have accomplished a lot in the last two years and they continue to build on their success. Coming up, they’re working on their website, more clothes, another music video, more songs, an event on August 29 to give back to a school in Paterson and on September 12, they will be participating in a fashion show at the Paterson Art Gallery.

“We’re a force to be reckoned with,” says Guerra.

BUILDING BERGEN'S FUTURE



Sports editor and writer, Gelber Castillo, along with Jessica Rodriguez, Photo Editor for The Torch, took a tour to see the building's development.

GELBER CASTILLO SPORTS EDITOR

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



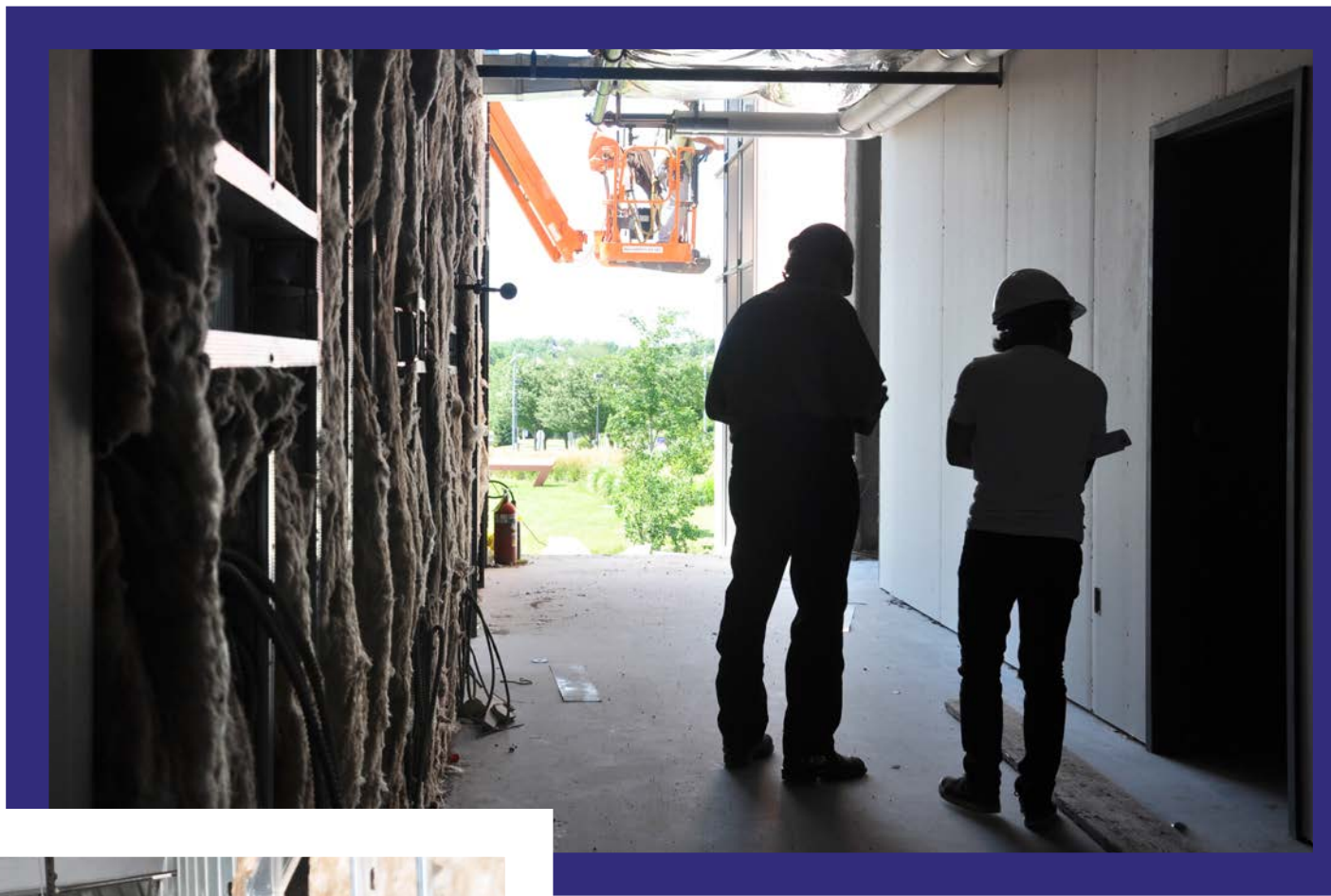
to have some collaborative research programs for our STEM students. This will give them an advantage when they move on to the four year institutions."

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 tenuously to spring break. The president hopes that the first classes in the new building will be held at the start of the next summer.



Jessica Rodriguez//The Torch



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.

MICHELLE'S DECLASSIFIED BCC SURVIVAL GUIDE

MICHELLE PEREZ
LAYOUT EDITOR

You waved goodbye to the beach and it's September again - back to school is finally here. Whether you're preparing for your final semester or just stepping into college for the first time, we all need to be prepared to survive the next four months at Bergen Community College. As a seasoned veteran, there are still some things that frankly, I wish I was told about college, which would have made life a lot easier.

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 can also register for your classes through your Portal account as well, which saves you the time and frustration. 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 obnoxious as it may be to some students, there is nothing more rewarding as a life skill than arriving early. It gets you the first parking spot, the best seat in class, and a shorter wait time for the Bursar's office. 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 student. Often times, the money remains immobile 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!

GET INVOLVED

It's never too late and never a bad idea to get involved in your school. 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 SC-110 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 mperez64280@me.bergen.edu

It's a Bird! It's a Plane! It's STEM's High Altitude Balloon!



Lackawanna State Park, PA provided the grounds for STEM students to push science to its limits. //Nicolette V. Filippone

NICOLETTE V. FILIPPONE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Soaring to new academic heights is not enough for Bergen STEM students. They literally have to reach the Earth's stratosphere.

Since the beginning of the 2015 Spring Semester, STEM project mentor Paul J. Griffo, Associate Professor of Physics at BCC, has been working with a small group of members in the STEM Student Union to design a high altitude balloon to reach the stratosphere with a payload consisting of a plethora of physics instrumentation and high definition imaging equipment. Leading the effort on the student end are Peter Lehrer, Eric Almborg, and Elshama C. Santana.

The launch site for the balloon was chosen to be Lackawanna State Park in Pennsylvania, approximately 125 miles from Bergen's Paramus campus. This site is one of several sites that permits experimental balloon launches. At 6:45 a.m. on Tuesday July 29., a convoy consisting of eight vehicles with 25 STEM student members set out on their journey with their hopes and dreams of success, to the launch site.

The team arrived at their destination at Lackawanna Park and quickly set up their equipment. To hoist the payload into the stratosphere, a 3,000 gram-capacity standard weather balloon was used. A weather balloon is designed to burst at a particular altitude, depending on the amount of helium with which it is filled. When the burst occurs, the payload is released and returns to the ground via parachute.

Lehrer was responsible for running simulations to predict the ground path and burst altitude of the

balloon. For the date and time of the anticipated launch, his predictions indicated a three hour flight with a landing to happen approximately 54 miles due south. Although the flight only lasted about two hours because the balloon was over-inflated, it landed on its predicted path.

Almborg, the payload specialist, was in charge of designing the electric circuit board. It had an array of sensors, as well as two high definition GoPro cameras to record the entire flight from launch to landing. To track the location of the payload and find the landing site, a Spot GPS tracking device and an APRS (Automatic Packet Reporting System) amateur radio transmitter were included in the payload package. Piggybacking on the flight were DNA samples of microbes provided by Dr. John Smalley, Professor of Biology, in order to investigate the effects of cosmic rays from the sun on DNA.

The ground crew, led by Santana, laid out their three, 2,000 and 200 PSI helium tanks and connected them to their custom designed balloon fill valves. Engineering Science major Kassem Al-Hussein manufactured the mechanical arm used to hold the picture frame for the payload package and customized the GoPro waterproof cases in order to charge while recording.

Also accompanying the expedition was STEM mentor Steve Cohen, as well as Dennis Montone and Mark Tronicke of Bergen County Technical Schools, acting as consultants. Once ground preparations were complete, at roughly 11:09 a.m., the balloon was released.



Since the balloon was safely aloft, nothing more could be done during the three hour journey than to anticipate for a safe landing. Being in the beautiful Lackawanna State Park, students took advantage of the barbecue grills that were set up, the lake for swimming, and the wonderful field to play soccer.

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 packed 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.

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

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.

GETTING TO KNOW OUR NEW DEAN OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

LUCIA RUBI GODOY
STAFF WRITER

The void left by Bergen Community College's former Dean of Student Life and Student Conduct has now been filled by Rachel Lerner-Colucci. Growing up in the Hudson Valley, Upstate 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 experience, so 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 for her, adding "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 stem from being student herself, as well as taking on roles as a camp counselor, 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 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 Student Affairs Administration. While she was going to graduate school, she worked in



Dean Lerner greeting SGA VP Michelle Correa during Club Day.
Jessica Rodriguez//The Torch

the Office of Student Life with the Student Programming Board, the Student Government Association, and the Athletic 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 College Experience course.

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.

"I've 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, so right now I'm getting the lay of the land and learning all about Bergen Community College, its processes, all of the majors and programs, and getting myself up to speed so I can be the best advocate that I can be," said Lerner.

She has already been actively meeting with the Student Government Association, working with them as an advisor.

"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 environment, and in the foundation that it provides to students."

Dean 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,

No Money? Have Some Coffee Anyway!



Perhaps, Pending Coffee will soon be at a Starbucks Near you.
Luis Ari Lopez Wei //The Torch

LUCIA RUBI GODOY
STAFF WRITER

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 freshly baked 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 Nicolás Failache Ugarte, the waiter we interviewed at Charola. "Usually, we sell an average of six pending coffees a day, and the commensals always rotate between the same twenty, many of which are children."

If anyone in need comes to ask for something to eat, the shop gives them coffee or hot chocolate with something to side it. 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.

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. In comparison, 7.2 percent of Bergen County's population stand below the poverty level according to the US Census Bureau. Also, Passaic 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 in our area, many feel that implementing the pending coffee would be a classy way to help out impoverished people.

Bergen Students React to Iwata's Death

ADAM GRASSANI
STAFF WRITER

On July 11, 2015, the video game industry lost a very special man. Iconic President of Nintendo, Satoru Iwata, passed away of a bile duct tumor

Iwata took the job as the President of Nintendo in 2002, succeeding Hiroshi Yamauchi. With Iwata leading the way, Nintendo developed the Nintendo DS and Wii systems, which would go on to become some of the most successful video game consoles in history. The Wii home console would sell over 100 million units, while the handheld DS would sell over 150 million.

Iwata would also go on to become a fan favorite developer in the world of Nintendo and one of, if not the most recognizable face of the company. Whenever Nintendo took the stage at E3, or hosted a Nintendo Direct, Iwata would always be the first one to greet the public. Iwata also hosted an interview show called "Iwata Asks." Nintendo fans will not be forgetting Iwata anytime soon, including the fans from our campus.

"He means a lot; he was very influential," said student Robert Mansmann Jr. "The way he was, the way he helped the video game industry made him more interesting to me. He was an incredible human being. I'm gonna miss him."

Along with the development of some of Nintendo's greatest consoles, Iwata played a big role in the development of many of Nintendo's greatest video games. Iwata was known for his



Iwata led the way during one of Nintendo's most successful periods.
Photo courtesy of MCT Campus

role in creating Kirby's Adventure, Mother 3, and one of the most critically acclaimed games of all time, Super Mario Galaxy.

"I remember my first time playing Mario Kart at the age of three," said Ryan Mulligan. "Also, the Mario Party and Super Smash Bros games. Iwata may be gone, but his legacy will never die."

To say that Satoru Iwata left a mark on gaming is an understatement. He left an impact on the industry that will never be forgotten.

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DEGREE
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BCC + FDU

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



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ISRA ELDOSOUGI'S CLS STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE

INESS RABAH
LAYOUT EDITOR

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, the atmosphere is so 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.

Her 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 all 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 really hard to stick to the language," as they had a language pledge where it was mandatory to speak Arabic at home and at school.



*Petra provided some of Eldosougi's favorite sceneries in Jordan.
//Ani Kasparian*

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."

Madaba is known for its churches and its beautiful mosaics. She describes Jordan as being a lot greener than she expected.

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. "But 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

BERGEN'S CDC ENRICHING THE YOUTH

MELISSA PEREZ
STAFF WRITER

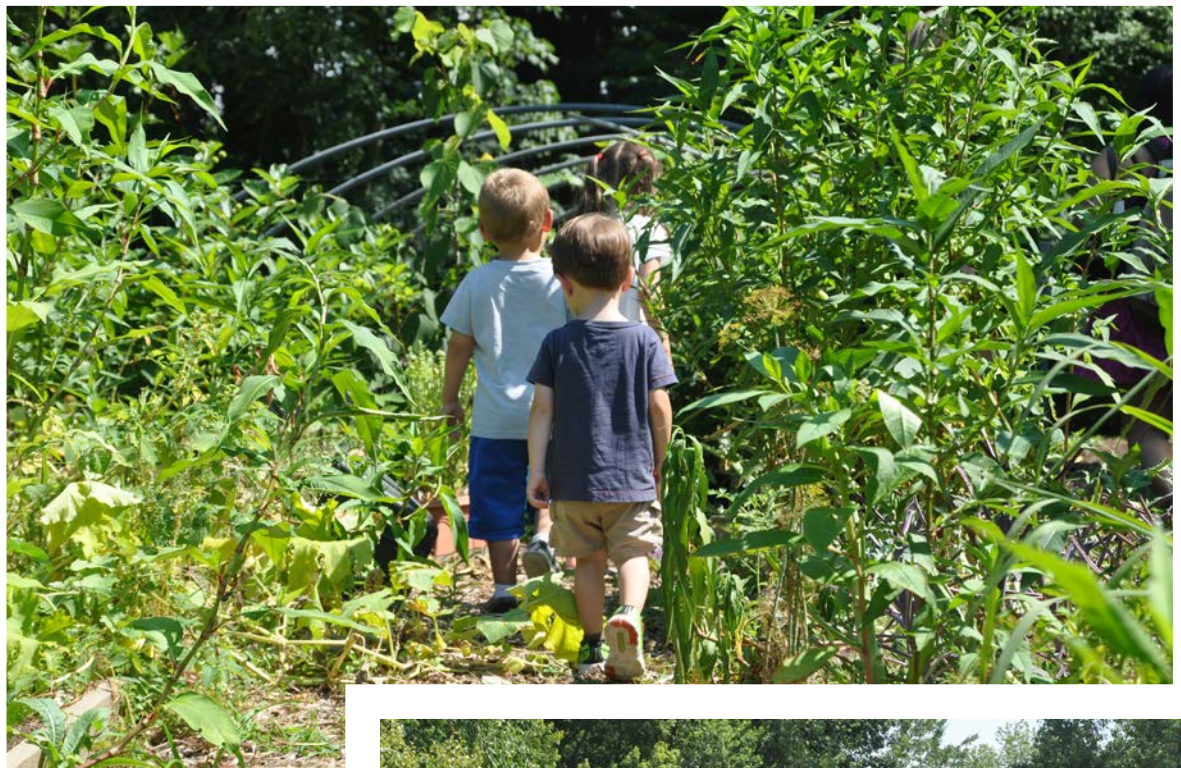
The state-of-the-art Child Development Center (CDC) located at Bergen Community College's Ender Hall, is a laboratory preschool that provides not only excellent child care but a nurturing environment and a satisfying community for parents.

There is much more than just cubbies and toys at the CDC. With a center based curriculum constructed to comply with the NJ 2009 Preschool Teaching and Learning Standards of Quality, they offer "developmentally appropriate" activities and classes. A two and three-year-old class and a four and five-year-old class taught by Shylah Hermann focus on themes and centers. "We are center based, which means we take a theme and integrate it in all areas of the curriculum; social studies, science, math, scenery, art, around all those or that curriculum. It is a wide range. Children go center to center, so there is always something interesting for them, they're never bored," Sally Dionisio, director of the CDC said.

The subjects focus on bringing out the best in each child. The math center is a hands-on experience, full of originally crafted board games and groups that focus on classifying, patterning, and other early mathematical skills.

The children's time at the center is also spent in yoga classes, music lessons by special guests, gardening classes, and reading time; in which parents, volunteers and occasionally President Kaye Walter tell stories to the children. The center is eco friendly, as the art classes reuse recyclable materials, and the gardens, raise vegetables butterflies and bees with the assistance of the environmental club.

The themes practiced in the centers are numerous, change often, and further the betterment of the children. Starting this fall, the first theme practiced is "All About



Me", a method that builds self-esteem, public speaking skills and bonds between students and instructors. After learning how to feel comfortable with talking about themselves, several more themes are taught, teaching their young minds cultural diversity.

"We do things that are seasonal, in the winter we do the arctics, and in autumn we do the fall season and some of the holidays. In December, we do 'Celebration Around the World,' where we include all our families and all the diverse cultures we have at the center. We also do the rainforest." Director Dionisio added.

Students can volunteer at the center in more ways one, by reading to them, helping them harvest out in the garden and much more.

"Seeing [The Children] grow and develop, and enjoying learning, just succeeding in something, and seeing the smile on their faces says it all. They have mastered something, and they get so proud of themselves, it is a

beautiful age." Director Dionisio explained what is so rewarding about the child development center.

With an open door policy to parents, five full-time staff members, and two part-timers, the child development center is a child's second home.

*Child Development Center of Bergen
Community College
Jessica Rodriguez/The Torch*



NFL's Tim Wright Meet and Greet At Bergen

LUIS ARI LOPEZ WEI
FEATURES EDITOR

Through the Office of Multicultural Affairs this summer, 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 are 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."

We also asked Mr. Wright what success looks like to him, for an individual who goes through the program. "I think it's a journey," he said.

"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."



Tim Wright pictured with BCC's Aretha McMillan, Coordinator of Educational Outreach and Manager of The Student X-Change
Luis Ari Lopez Wei //The Torch

Sports continued below

NFL SUMMERTIME RECAP

GELBER CASTILLO
SPORTS EDITOR

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 skidding and tackling to give fruit to sweet, sweet victory.

But during the time we had various soccer tournaments to placate our need for American muscle, changes were taking place within the league.

The draft earlier this year brought on two quarterbacks that can potentially resuscitate two crippled franchises. Tennessee is hopeful that Marcus Mariota will be the stable quarterback they lacked in recent seasons, while Tampa Bay's recent grab, Jameis Winston, is raising eyebrows from defeat-hardened fans. These two rookies will face each other in the first games of the season.

We can expect ESPN to over-hype and over-exaggerate the results of that game. Both rookies must be stressed by the pressure placed by their fans, but Giants fans are stressed by Jason Pierre-Paul's amputation.

We know that JPP's right index finger was

amputated after a firework 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 farts 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



The NFL's elite players which, unsurprisingly, is Jets Free
//Photo courtesy of Wikimedia

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.

GIRLS THAT BITE

GELBER CASTILLO
SPORTS EDITOR

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: communication.

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."



BCC spiking their way to victory.
Iness Rabah//The Torch

New seasons also bring problems with new recruits. The coach, however, was unfazed. "With returning players, Rhonyelle Sowell at the net, Nadia Vaso setting and Marcela Ortiz anchoring our defense, I'm eager to see the strengths our new athletes bring to the table. We've always had a well-rounded team, and I believe this year will be no different."

Last season, with the help of the girls mentioned, the volleyball team fought their way into the regional finals, achieving their goal of making it into the tournament. They were sent home after a first-round match against Northampton.

"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, "If you have a good, positive 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.

CAPTAIN'S CORNER: SUFFERING FROM METSFAN SYNDROME - RECOVERY



Will the Basedgod bless The Mets this postseason?
Iness Rabah//The Torch

GABE WANISSIAN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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, it's not the Twilight Zone, the smell of the autumn leaves has arrived and the Mets are playing still meaningful baseball games

Back in January, I wrote my first "Suffering from Mets fan Syndrome" article by comparing the fanbase to a feining drug addict waiting for their championship fix. Well, they are now clean, thanks to an intervention in the form of some stellar starting pitching, a passable offense due to the key midseason pickups of Juan Uribe, Kelly Johnson and Yoenis Cespedes, and heart lifting moments like Wilmer Flores going from a crying castaway to a mainstay hero.

As I am writing this article, the Mets are 83-63, eight games ahead in first place, and I can gladly say to you, fellow reader, that I am eating my smartass words right now, and I'm loving every bite.

In that January piece, I posed sarcastic questions for the fellow reader that I thought would be answered over the course of the season with a giant emphatic "No" by the Baseball gods. Thankfully, Zeus hath shown mercy: Would Harvey be healthy this season? Yes. Would Lucas Duda replicate last year and continue to hit black hole causing home runs? Affirmative.

Was Jacob DeGrom's Rookie of the Year season a fluke? Hell no.

It hasn't, however, been all sunshine and rainbows. June was a scary month for the Mets. They had the lowest scoring offense in the National League for the month as they posted a 13-15 record that seemingly washed away their 11 game winning streak in April. It appeared as the season was going to fold like a house of cards in the way it always does for the Amazin's - But We Believed in Harvey (Dent) and the rest of the pitching staff to carry us through the turbulence. Now that the dust has settled, the Mets are poised to take off, and, damn, am I excited.

Who can blame me? How could we have expected all of the stars to align in this fashion, and for General Manager Sandy Alderson to actually make a splash onto the trade market to turn a "meh, she's okay" caliber team to "hey girl, let me send you a DM real quick" status of hotness?

Okay maybe that was a stretch, but where as in previous years, the team was this awkwardly dressed girl who would get turned away from the club. The 2015 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

MELISSA PEREZ
STAFF WRITER

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 heros of sports, dominating every sport channel, selling out arenas, and receiving the majority of recognition; women can still rise to countless occasions.

"You can't hit a girl," but a girl can certainly throw a punch. Ronda Rousey, Olympic gold medalist and UFC Women's Bantamweight Champion is redefining the saying, "fight like a girl." Rousey and her 66.0"1 reach has set various records, including the win of a fight that lasted 14 seconds. Rousey has achieved another record on August 1 2015 for five consecutive first round wins, after dominating Beth Correia; adding to her 12 victories and zero losses.

The highlight of this summer was the US women soccer team's domination in the World Cup. On July 5th, 2015, the BC Place arena in Vancouver was packed with supporting fans who witnessed the US national team face the Japanese finalists and celebrated a 5-2 US victory. The game was won through a slew of incredible half field kicks. It was a tournament that our US

men's soccer team could not win, or much less reach the finals.

A recent achievement for women prowess is Serena Williams taking her sixth victory at Wimbledon on July 11 2015. In the final grand slam, Williams defeated Garbine Muguruza [6-4 6-4], another victory after championing the French and Australian opens earlier this year, continuing her 'Serena Slam'. Winning four straight majors for the second time, Williams continues to knock down barriers.

Melissa Mayeux, a 16 year old shortstop for the French U-18 team is proving that girls can play baseball, and yes, she can hit a ball smaller than a softball. Mayeux is a contender among 79 male athletes to potentially play for the New York Yankees minor league farm system. Mayeux is the first girl in the 158 years of MLB history to be added to the Major League Baseball's International Registration List. Though her chances to be joining are unlikely, this is still history in the making

The female body is capable of winning six Wimbledon tournaments, the FIFA World Cup, Olympic gold medals, the MLB registration list and so much more. Girls are strong, women can play sports and win. The athletic world is not entirely made of brawley men and it certainly is not about women and their efforts to keep up. The athletic industry belongs to both women and men.

Despite that it is mainly monopolized by men, the professional sports are both man's and woman's victories. As retired national soccer player Julie Foudy said, "I think the challenge is keeping [women's sports] consistently in the public's eye, and not with just every Olympic, or not just every World Cup. It shouldn't be a four-year affair. It should be something that is continuous. I think that's the next step for women's sports: being an everyday presence."



Serena Williams at the 2015 US Open // Photo courtesy of Edwin Martinez



SPORTS



Mimms was a key role in Bergen Baseball's rise from Pup to Bulldog.
Photo Courtesy of iHigh

MIMMS WINS COACH OF THE YEAR AWARD

GELBER CASTILLO

SPORTS EDITOR

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 great 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."

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."

NEW BREED OF BULLDOG

ADRIAN YLLATOPA

CO-EDITOR

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 only four returning Bulldogs this season, the task will be anything but easy.

August 2 and 3 were summer days for students on vacation. For aspiring soccer players at BCC, it was their start to donning the trademark purple and white kits. For tryouts, however, they had to settle for pinnies.

Bergen Bulldogs' hopeful second-year student Ian Blanik was attending his first BCC men's soccer team tryout. He was unable to play for the Bulldogs last year as he was playing for a third division team in Brazil. His prior experience also includes teams in places such as Spain and Argentina. "I'm definitely expecting more," he says about the rest of tryouts. "If I do go further with this, I'm in good hands," he added.

Second-year student Erik Cruz was also attending his first soccer tryout for the team. He has experienced playing in club teams around the area prior to this tryout, but he's noticed a big difference. "It's more than one day. This goes on for the whole month of August," says Cruz. He nearly lost his opportunity to participate because he was late to one of the tryouts.

With many new faces attending, coaches Herrera and Soto have the task of selecting the specific players that they want to implement for this season. "A possession game, that's a tough one. Everyone wants to keep the ball, but not everyone is able to do it," said Herrera, on the style they intend to play. Playing the ball out from the back and keeping possession of it is their identity for the new season.

Once the coaches have their team in place, they have the whole month of August to prepare. In that time, they look to teach their new breed of tactics that they want to play. "We talk to them, we show them videos just to make it easier for them to catch," said Herrera.

Assistant coach Giovanni Soto is the new face on the coaching side. His coaching experience includes different academies around New Jersey and also working alongside 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 work against another player who has more experience than them. Those are the things the coach and I will have to mold. It's different."

The Bulldogs' season opens August 20, an away game against Bronx Community College.



Bulldogs are hoping Summer practices will bear winning fruit this Fall.
Iness Rabah/The Torch

JOIN THE TORCH

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