Parties try to put themselves into us, not their party,” she stated. Whitman. From 2001 to 2003, Whitman also served as the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency for President George W. Bush. She currently has an energy lobbying group called the Whitman Strategy Group, a governmental relations consulting firm that specializes in environmental and energy issues. Whitman is also a director of Texas Instruments and United Technologies. During her interview, Whitman mentioned that her daughter, Katie, ran second in the Congressional district. Whitman took great pride in the fact that she had managed the campaign. “We, as residents, can’t wait to have brown outs [which refers to a drop in voltage, as opposed to a complete loss of voltage, also known as a blackout] and to think of an alternative. These are the primary issues that our candidates need to address as this is our future,” said Whitman. Whitman had formed the EPA (environmental protection agency) which had taken many actions towards cleaning up the environment, such as taking the lead content out of gasoline. One of the issues that this committee is working on is the air quality in lower Manhattan. Ever since 9/11, the air quality has taken a turn for the worse. Residents in Manhattan had asbestos in their apartments, forcing them to evacuate or find other homes. “We are not as bad as it is in Europe, but it is worse than what we are accustomed to,” stated Whitman. The EPA can’t administer indoor air quality, but recently, did a study on getting rid of fiber materials that are still in tenant’s homes containing asbestos and any other airborne toxins. Even though Whitman had passed the torch to other governors, she is still very active within the Tri-State area, and is finding solutions to help clean up our climate. The EPA and Whitman had undertaken efforts by cleaning up the Hudson River, protecting children from environmental health hazards, such as asthma and sun exposure, and requiring cleaner burning diesel engines and lower amounts of sulfur in diesel fuel in order to reduce emissions from America’s mobile sources. To this day, Whitman continues to carry on the cause of a Greener future.

Active Minds Promote Mental Health

By Rachel Kamenir

College can be a very stressful time. Many students are juggling work, school, and relationships, all of which can contribute to stress and an unhealthy state of mind. Bergen Community College recently held a Mental Health seminar, which took place on September 17th in the Maria Ciccone Theater and was sponsored by Active Minds, a student-run organization dedicated to promoting awareness for the disorders that may result from poor mental health. Allison K. Malmon, one of the speakers at the seminar, founded the organization as a junior at the University of Pennsylvania. She has received numerous awards, one of them being the “Tipper Gore Remember the Children Award” from Mental Health Magazine. She has also been featured on CNN and many other publications and talk shows.

Malmon started Active Minds after the accidental suicide of her older brother, Brian. She found out that the average mental health of a student was poor. “What I found out when I researched was that what my brother went through was not unique—75 percent of people with schizophrenia become ill between the ages of 15 and 25, the college age,” Allison says. This means that college students are developing mental disorders, like schizophrenia, because students are not reaching out and talking to others. Active Minds is the national organization that focuses on peer-to-peer interaction. They publicize student speakers at conferences who spread the word. The organization is student-run and encourages student support groups to form on campus. “Our website, which was only one student chapter. This transformed to over 150 chapters in North American and Canadian colleges and universities. Active Minds is expected to grow to 300 chapters by 2010. The colleges in the area that already have their own chapters are: Montclair State University, Ramapo College and The College of New Jersey.

The seminar focused on mental disorders that may result from having poor mental health. Some of the problems that can occur are: anxiety disorder, depression, bipolar disorder, and substance abuse. All of these disorders are treatable, but there is a reduced risk of developing them by maintaining a healthy mental composition.

One resource for raising mental health is the Wellness Center at Bergen Community College, which organizes programs such as this seminar. It also provides counsel for students, faculty and students. The Wellness Center operates on a holistic approach, and is located in rooms L-122A and L-121B. Malmon strives to promote Active Minds as a way for people to expand their comfort zones so they can feel free to seek help and says “Ideally, not only will Active Minds become the voice of young adults but it can be the driving force behind breaking down stigma and raising awareness.”

Whitman continues to clean up New Jersey

By Elaine Cervone

Managing Editor

On June 4th, Christie Todd Whitman, the 50th Governor of New Jersey, made an appearance at the Civic Center Theatre to conduct an interview with Alfred Doblin from the Bergen Record. Whitman, who was among those being New Jersey’s first and only female Governor, went through was not unique—what my brother went through was not unique—75 percent of people with schizophrenia become ill between the ages of 15 and 25, the college age,” she states, “It still made me feel uneasy.” She decided to use the negative emotions to fuel her in and toward educating not only herself, but fellow classmates and whoever was willing to listen. She said that “Although my paper was not picked to be one of the panels, maybe it was too much of an opinion and not more research; nevertheless, my goal was to bring my words to life, to be witnessed by my peers.”

More papers by BCC’s own included a presentation by Anthony Pope and Humberto Martinez, promoting the convenience and affordability of e-books by conducting a two-part survey on campus. Their first survey, which encompassed the responses of 100 students, gauged their current demand, along with the pros and cons of the format against traditional texts. Through this survey, they made note of the lack of marketing and advertisement of e-books to the student body. After the preliminary survey, the Bonney and Pope conducted a survey in a larger scale, surveying up to 300 students at BCC and neighboring universities around New Jersey. Pope said that “It was an honor to be presenting Bergen Community College at the Beacon 2008 Conference. The response from professors and fellow students was enlightening, and their questions and comments were gracious and advantageous. We have not completed the project, as stated in our report, there are more questions we will be asking of students and interviews to be conducted with professors and college administrators.”

The Fiend in Frankenstein, written by John Hendricks who was monitored by Dr. Altman, asserts a theory that runs contrary to common analysis of the story’s themes and the motivations of its characters. Dr. Altman explains that “John had a very interesting theory about the novel Frankenstein—most readers think of Dr. Frankenstein as the well meaning creator of a monster who goes out of control and commits murder—specifically murdering those close to Frankenstein. However, the

Bergen Hosts Beacon ‘08

By Nicole Janmarie

On June 6th, Bergen Community College proudly hosted this year’s Beacon Conference in the West Hall and the Anna Maria Ciccone Theater. The Beacon Conference was founded in 1993, and is held annually at different community colleges. The event provides an opportunity for 2-year college students to compete in the areas of academic research and writing, and offers up to 10 topics to choose from. Both the outstanding presenter and the presenter’s mentor are recognized at the closing session of the conference and both are awarded with a prize of $100. After submission, 3 students from 3 different community colleges rank the top 4 papers for presentation, which are judged in categories such as: psychology, originality, research, writing, and total presentation on a scale of 1-10. The conference was mentored by Dr. Dorothy Altman, Dr. Alan Kaufman, and Dr. Makowiecka were the chosen Directors of the event, which was sponsored and supported by publishers such as Bedford/St. Martin’s, Pearson, and a coalition of colleges and universities.

Many BCC students participated in the Beacon Conference. One of them, Sheila Denise Kennedy, presented her paper, “A River Deep of Two Panoramas: A Response to Huckleberry Finn,” in which she expresses her views on racial issues, slurs (such as the N word), and the satirical spin on social commentary made by Mark Twain and various other authors during the suppression period. She mentioned how difficult it was for her to sit in class and hear racial slurs being used. Even though she was fully aware that the intentions were innocent and to promote a class discussion, she states, “It still made me feel