Part 1: New E-Board Sworn In

LUCIA RUBI GODOY & LUIS ARI LOPEZ WEI
ONLINE EDITOR AND FEATURES EDITOR

The Student Government Association elections have come to an end, with the results bringing in the new Executive Board for the Fall 2016 Semester. David DeLizio defeated Justin Jusino to become the first SGA male president in over three years. Sibora Peca, Yazmin Badauxi, and Angelica Flores ran unopposed; winning the positions of Treasurer, Chief-of-Staff and Vice President respectively.

The elections ran from May 2-6, and the results of the elections were revealed at 4 p.m. this past Friday afternoon. The winners were then immediately sworn into office at the Ciccone Theatre.

The opportunity to run for a position in the SGA e-board opens up first to the senators, then to the members of the House of Representatives, and finally to the rest of the student body. There are several requirements that a student has to meet in order to run in the elections. They have to meet a grade point average of 3.0 and complete an application package in a given amount of time. Part of this package includes collecting signatures.

The candidates running for the President position have to collect 500 signatures, the ones running for Vice President must collect at least 450, and the ones running for Chief of Staff and Treasurer must collect 400. Michelle Correa, who is the former Vice President of SGA and Chair of the Elections Committee, explained that the candidates don’t know who is part of the Elections Committee until they are approved to run for any position.

This prevents them from acting any different with the members of the committee than they would if they knew who was part of it, and it helps the committee observe what the senators work ethics are really like before they are allowed to run and campaign.

“It took us a lot of time to decide what we wanted to do. We didn’t want whoever would be the next Election Committee to look back and try to follow our footsteps,” said Correa.

Another reason to delay the elections, was to give any potential candidates the opportunity to complete application packages and run, thus preventing any candidates from running unopposed. Despite this, three of the four positions available had only one candidate running.

(Story Continues on pg. 2)

Alumni Trustee Elected, Policy for Position Still in Question

SAMUEL MCLAUGHLIN
CO-EDITOR

Isaac Isai Alejo Reyes of Phi Theta Kappa won the election for the college’s Alumni Trustee. The elections spanned from May 2-6, and had Reyes running against Tamara Taylor, Vice President of the Black Student Union.

The Alumni Trustee is one of 11 members that make up the college’s Board of Trustees. The board holds monthly public meetings to oversee operations at the College, as well as ratify or veto proposals that affect policies, budget, and educational curriculum.

The number of potential candidates underwent a change in the last few weeks after Phi Theta Kappa member Andrew Fenwick was told that he would not be permitted to run this year. Administration had informed Fenwick that he could not run this year, because he will be graduating from BCC in August, due to taking a Summer I session class.

“It is a very vague and unclear policy,” Fenwick said after investigating the parameters for the Alumni Trustee election.

In the rule 2A in the policy, it states “[The candidate] must be a member of the January, May or August graduating class immediately preceding the term of appointment. July 1-July 1.” Fenwick argued that since he placed in the August graduating class, that should have made him eligible to run.

Dean of Student Life Rachel Lerner-Colucci elaborated on the policy, stating that according to the policy, his graduating class would make him eligible to run for Alumni Trustee in 2017. “I think that all policies are open for exploration and research and is something that could be looked at,” said Lerner-Colucci regarding the wording of the policy.

“The Board of Trustees are the ones who write the policies, but my question is why is it that the members of the administration get to be the ones to interpret what the policies mean?” said Fenwick. When he approached other members of the Board of Trustees about the matter, they all consulted the policy and told him that according to the policy, he could run. It has only been members of the administration board who have told him that he cannot run, despite what the policy states.

“The biggest disappointment for me is that there is no one in the administration who is willing to help me try to make a change now,” Fenwick said.

“I want to make this change no matter what. Even if I cannot be the benefactor of it, at the end of the day I still want this change to be made. It is not fair for students to run while being ‘supported’” (Story Continues on pg. 5)
**SGA Holds Elections, Amidst Advisor Concerns**

_(Story Continued from pg. 1)_

"There will definitely be a learning curve, but they [the new e-board] are all fit for the roles, and they have great potential," said former President Laura Zottarelli. Zottarelli, who served as SGA president for the past two semesters, shared that the ability to maneuver around complicated campus politics is a skill that is learned over time.

"I didn't feel like I was actually used to my [position until] the actual beginning of the Fall semester. It took me all summer to get used to it," said SGA President Zottarelli.

"I'm really excited about the e-board," I think that the turning over of student government executive boards is a real important transition piece," said SGA advisor and Dean of Student Life and Affairs, Rachel Lerner-Colucci. She is looking forward to the opportunity to work with the new e-board over the summer, especially being that she did not have a chance to work with the previous e-board over last summer. Student Life has a series of trainings planned for the new e-board, which include travelling to an SGA e-board conference where they’ll be focusing on preparing the new leadership, "so that once the full comes around, they’re ready to rock and roll."

Part 2: SGA Attempts to Gain Third Advisor

Amidst ongoing elections, members of Bergen Community College's Student Government Association had expressed some frustrations with the current state of the organization.

Since the Fall 2015 semester, eight senators had quit SGA, for various reasons. But a sentiment shared by most of the senators that stepped down, was that they felt SGA wasn’t doing enough, and that being the case, their time would be better spent on other pursuits.

"I’m the type of person where I feel like if something doesn’t benefit me in a way that I will take up the issue... I just drop it like a bad habit. So within that realization, I kind of feel like we were doing anything to be honest with you," said former senator Daniah Hamouda, who started a new job a few months ago and was taking five classes the spring semester. Had Hamouda felt that the organization was doing more and would benefit her, she would have stuck with it. "But I don’t think that it was," she said. "I don’t think the advisors put in as much work as they make it seem like they do. And that’s just the honest truth.”

"Perhaps the senators wanted a little more guidance this semester, but the advisors have provided a great amount of support behind the scenes which has helped the e-board greatly. Since advisors aren’t having that directness with the advisors the way the board does, they don’t see it as much, but they have been our advocates since day one, which has helped the seniors in an indirect way," said former SGA President Laura Zottarelli. Hamouda feels the SGA advisors had not made clear the direction the organization and individual senators should take. When senators did have ideas for things they wanted to do, or proposals they wanted to push forward, the advisors would often tell senators why they could not go forward with their ideas. “Every idea went against something and it was really to the point where we weren’t doing anything because everything was going against something,” Hamouda feels the SGA

According to PIX 11 news, “Newark’s mayor is asking for donations of cases of bottled water. “So it all started in Flint, Michigan, where there was lead, not just in the schools but in the entire municipalities, so that has kind of shined a spotlight on lead in drinking water,” said Hlavenka. It is believed that the contaminants are coming from the pipes of older and more susceptible to lead poisoning.
Bergen Diplomats Make History at UN

NOEMIE BROUSSOUX-COUTARD

Bergen students made history during the 2016 National Model United Nations Conference by being the recipients of an Honorable Mention. Every year, a group of students travel to New York City to represent the college with the Model United Nations Association. In October, all 245 participating schools were given a country to present at the conference, assigning each member of the schools to a different committee.

For months, student delegates conducted extensive research on their country’s position on specific issues surrounding the committee: “Representing the country of Myanmar has taught me that the important decisions made by the United Nations affect every single individual,” states Jonas Bronj, Bergen student delegate for the Habitat 3 committee, dealing with sustainable development and addressing poverty on a global scale.

On March 27 2016, 12 Bergen students packed their bags, enormous research binders and diplomatic mindsets, and finally headed to New York City for the 2016 National Model United Nations Conference.

“As one of the handful of students lucky enough to attend this conference, I can assess that this week was definitely academically challenging,” reminisces Christian Domínguez, Head Delegate of the club.

Throughout their stay in the Big Apple, delegates found themselves in the midst of political negotiations, business deals and scientific innovations, all recorded in a Resolution Paper, in which 30 delegations need to sign onto in order for it to pass. On the last day, all committees attended a voting process, which determined the passing or failing Resolution Papers.

“When our paper was passed with acclamation, meaning no delegation was opposed to it, it was like a dream come true. Seeing students understanding the need for change and amelioration in the world was inspiring,” expresses Celine Simo, delegate for the Programme of Action: Small Arms and Light Weapons (PoA SALW). In fact, Simo is far from being the only student proud of their work at the conference, as all of Bergen delegates’ papers passed with flying colors.

Thanks to their dedicated work as delegates at the conference, Bergen was also given the title of Honorable Mention Delegation, 2016 being the first year Bergen receives that prize at the conference, Bergen was also given the title of Honorable Mention Delegation, 2016 being the first year

BCC Creates Missing Children’s Display

GEORGE R. GUERRA

Currently, there are 54 missing children in New Jersey. The criteria by which one is labelled a “missing child” is their having been under 18 years of age, at the time of their disappearance. For this reason, many of those 54 missing children are actually grown adults by now.

In a hall near Public Safety, the Efforts Against Human Trafficking club has put up a 5x3 display case with images of 22 missing children from New Jersey. The club is referring to the display as “The Missing Children’s Display Case,” and while the justification for not having displayed all 54 is simply for the purposes of space, there are plans to cycle the images monthly. When asked about how the images were prioritized, club president and SGA senator Peter Zalokostas commented “the ones that are currently in there are children missing from the past ten years, dating back pretty much from present day to 2006.” When filtering database results using that criteria, Zalokostas found 27 results, and despite not being able to fit five of them into the case, he has been making efforts to at least go to local businesses to try to get them to put the images up.

The choice of location for the display case came from the knowledge that many students who are new to Bergen will pass through public safety and it seemed like an appropriate location, especially given the assistance and support for the project that was provided by the head of Public Safety, Chief William Corcoran.

The inspiration for the project came from club member Robert Michael, who’s experienced recognizing someone as being from the database of missing children and contacting the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. It supported the club’s notion that a difference could be made simply through getting these children’s faces more public attention.

(Continues on pg. 5)
Continuing your education at Bergen Community College and Fairleigh Dickinson University will allow you to achieve your higher degree at a lower cost. 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:

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Questions? Visit Almida Hernandez, FDU's on-site advisor, Monday-Friday at the Pitkin Education Center, Room A126. alheman@fdu.edu or BCC-FDUScholars@fdu.edu. 201-493-4088

Learn more at fdu.edu/bcc-fdu
THE RESTRICTION OF HONOR COURSES

“Yeah absolutely, I think any professor would jump at the chance of teaching an honors class at any time.”

— Dr. Daniel Salerno

The lack of summer courses given at Bergen Community College makes it problematic for students to graduate with honors on time. Students who plan on taking an honors course often can’t advance within the two years, because honor courses aren’t offered during the summer. This could possibly force honor students to take non-honors courses additionally, preventing them from wearing their sash, medals, and tassels on commencement day.

“Why should I have to only take honor classes in the fall and spring?” says SGA E-Board candidate, Sibora Peca, who majors in Biotechnology. Peca, has completed all of her general education courses and the fact that honor courses aren’t offered in the summer she can’t enroll in neither an honors course nor a non-honors course in the summer. “I wanted to take an honors class in the summer but since it’s not offered I can’t take anything.”

Dr. Maria H. Makowiecka, has been familiarized with the honors program dating back to 2007, while serving as the JKW School of Honors co-Director then. Dr. Makowiecka was not available for discussion regarding the matter.

Dr. Daniel Salerno, who teaches English Composition and English Literature says he wouldn’t mind teaching an honors courses. “Yeah absolutely, I think any professor would jump at the chance of teaching an honors class at any time.”

As an honors student, you are much more likely to receive a scholarship to a four-year college. The opportunity to take summer courses in the summer would also accelerate their graduation process. According to a survey constructed by SGA E-Board candidate Angelica Flores, 65 out of 85 students said they’re taking a course during the summer. Out of those same students, 92 percent of them said they would be interested in taking an honors course during the summer. According to Flores, she can envision honor courses offered in the near future at BCC. “I think that if enough people ask for an honors course then yes.”

“If you supply the facts to whoever is in charge, they’ll compromise or be willing if the public is demanding.” The honor students feel that they are more than capable of taking an honors course and they won’t struggle with it. “It’s not easy taking an honors course but, it’s possible to put up with one. “It ranges depending on each individual, it does take a lot of commit and work but, if you do manage your time it’s not a burden, it’s manageable,” says Flores.

There aren’t any additional fees to enroll in an honors course at Bergen Community College. The College of New Jersey, offers summer courses throughout the multiple summer sessions. TCNJ give students who are visiting students or even incoming freshmen the opportunity to take an honors course.

Hopefully, Dr. Makowiecka, the director of the JKW School of Honors, enables something where honor courses are offered in the summer. The only qualifications making one eligible to take an honors courses is having a GPA of at least 3.5 and a minimum of 24 credits.

Missing Children’s Display at BCC

(Continued from pg. 3)

The club faced some initial opposition to the idea due to liability concerns involved with dealing with children who had grown into adulthood that may not want to be found. It was established that the good that could be done by being one of the only colleges to have a display like this, far outweighed any potential negative externalities.

Ultimately, Efforts Against Human Trafficking had three main goals in creating this display. The first was exposure and getting these children’s faces “out there” as Zalekosas put it. It makes it easier for success stories like Robert Michael’s to happen when people can more easily identify potential victims of human trafficking. The second goal is to increase awareness that children do in fact, go missing from our area, and it’s not just something that happens to other people in other places, but it is in fact a very real concern. There is a chance that a child has gone missing from your town and you don’t even know it. The third goal was to spark a movement to try and get people to do something about missing and exploited children in their area, in an effort to ultimately eliminate the threat of human trafficking.

BCC’s Efforts Against Human Trafficking felt that special thanks should be given to Director of Public Safety William Corcoran and Coordinator of Student Life Greg Fenkart for their assistance in this project, and hold onto the hope that someday the display will be empty.

Alumni Trustee Elected, Policy in Question

(Continued from pg. 1)

by an unclear policy.”

Sara Taylor commented on the policy at the “Meet Your Candidates’ event in the Student Center on April 25.

“The policy has caused some problems, and we need to make it clear to the committee that the policies are not clear to us,” Tamara commented. The issue of clarity in policies is not a new one and the current candidates are taking that into account.

Reyes had similar feelings on the matter. “If I am elected as Alumni Trustee, it will be my top priority to not only clear up the issue in this particular policy, but to cover all of the policies to make sure that they can be understood.”

Alumni Trustee Elected, Policy in Question

(Continued from pg. 1)
Adderall Use Among Students Still Prevalent

The end is near. As the spring semester is slowly coming to an end; the workload is only getting harder, yet many students are nearly drained due to the 15 week period. Ritalin, Adderall, Focalin, Dexedrine, and Vyvanse are all commonly used by students, whether at the collegiate level or secondary level. According to Bergen Community College registered nurse Dana Huie, Adderall is often abused and used for recreational use rather than treatment. “I don’t think they’re using it for Attention Deficit Disorder. It’s usually to get high because you’re usually diagnosed when you’re younger,” says Huie. According to The Huffington Post, Adderall use without prescription increased from 0.73 percent to 1.2 percent.

Many students, especially college students, are mentally drained by late April and early May. Students find it hard to focus because of various distractions swirling around campus or just in their lives. On top of that, many assignments are simply thrown at students. Finals week is tough on everyone and it’s especially tough on those who are diagnosed with ADHD.

Those who often take stimulants usually find it more necessary to consume, shortly before the semester is over. “More towards the end when you’re hitting finals and research papers, a lot of pressure builds up and you really have to focus,” said Stephen Pansolini. Pansolini, a transfer student from Marist College who majors in post-production, is prescribed by his medical physician to take Vyvanse. “I realized I really needed it when I was in college.”

According to Pansolini, the quick transition from high school to college was too hard to grasp and it was even harder due to his disorder. “I couldn’t manage the stress of performing, waking up, and managing my social life.” This often seems to be a common thing with college students, the stress level is often so severe and intense, that it’s often unbearable to handle.

“When I went to school, I noticed I couldn’t focus on anything, I couldn’t retain anything. After I took Vyvanse, I started paying attention and I was able to retain certain details,” said Pansolini.

Many students say school has gone to an intensifying level, however, Registered Nurse Lorene Bowers from Bergenfield High School disagrees. “The school work isn’t that heavy but it’s hard to concentrate because of all the social media and the technology that are around them.”

“When they might not have ADHD, they may just be over stimulated sometimes it’s just a lack of study skills.” This is usually one of the first signs students notice when they realize they may need a stimulant.

Taking Ritalin, Adderall, Focalin, Dexedrine, and Vyvanse or any other stimulant drug does just as much harm for you than good physically, as it can worsen conditions such as anxiety, high blood pressure and depression. Pansolini said, “it actually can do both because your mind starts racing and you could be on a problem during a test for ten minutes and I end up overthinking it.”

An average size of a pharmaceutical stimulant pill is about a $2.50, however, this can be so lethal that users must be cautious when taking it. Students who do not take medical attention are more likely to consume the stimulant drug. “Full-time college students aged 18 to 22 are twice as likely to have used Adderall than those who go part-time, according to a 2009 government study found,” said by the Medical Daily.

Mossack Fonseca, an offshore Panamanian law firm, has leaked confidential documents revealing that government leaders have been using offshore tax havens to store their wealth. Süddeutsche Zeitung, a German newspaper, first obtained these records from an anonymous source. The paper then published the leaked information to see if any anti-bribery laws have been broken. The “Panama Papers” include 11.5 million files, which contains 2.6 terabytes of data, and covers a period from 1977 to December 2015. To fathom how large that amount of data is, consider that there are 1090 gigabytes in a terabyte. The Wikileaks leak in 2010 contained about 17 gigabytes, and intelligence information leaked by Edward Snowden in 2013 comprised of 260 gigabytes.

Fonseca says it has set up over 200,000 offshore companies around the world, the majority of them being in the British Virgin Islands, and has denied doing anything criminal and only acted on instructions of intermediaries. In a statement, they have said media reports have “misrepresented the nature of our work.” The firm has since said they were victims of a computer hack.

President Petro O. Poroshenko of Ukraine and Prime Minister Sigmundur David Gunnlaugsson have been named, and the latter has since stepped down due to the controversy. His company set up in the British Virgin Islands, Wintrix Inc., lost millions of dollars in a 2008 financial crash and the company is claiming a leak million from failed Icelandic banks.

The crash was extremely detrimental to Iceland’s economy.

Recent revelations include British Prime Minister David Cameron having earned money through a trust his father had set up with Fonseca, Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin calling the leak an American plot, The El Salvadoran government taking computers and data from a local office of Fonseca, and the relatives of the Chinese president having companies with the law firm.

Many world leaders and other public figures have responded with denials to any wrongdoing done.

Numerous World Leaders Implicated in “Panama Papers” Leak

SGA Holds Elections, Amidst Advisor Concerns

When asked if she felt adding a third advisor would address the concern in SGA that they feel that the current advisor situation does not serve them optimally, she said, “I think that’s something that we’re addressing internally.”

Of all senators who quit was for the lack of being able to get proposals passed also weighed in on Linwood’s decision to quit. “I would say the only one that was really frustrated was me, because they kept turning down most of my stuff,” he said. “That made me want to quit, but I stuck it out for a little more. But then when I was sticking it out, it made me realize what was more important and that’s when theatre came in. He admits that he would have thought harder about his decision to quit had more proposals been passed.

Although there were eight senators this semester, they were able to replace six of them, leaving the Senate having filled 27 out of the 30 available positions. The process for becoming a senator is similar to the process for running for an SGA e-board position. Those wishing to become senators must collect 100 signatures from the student body, the signatures of three deans, and then interview with members of the SGA e-board. If they collect all the required signatures and pass the interview, they become a senator.

Some felt that SGA hit a sort of bump in the road toward the beginning of the spring semester, with the senators quitting and everyone still learning the ropes, the organization started coming back into its own. “I would definitely say that we stepped into our stride further into the end of the year. It was a rocky board too, so we were just getting warmed up,” said SGA senator Tristan Anderson. “I really feel that SGA is heading in the right direction.”

There have been talks of adding on a third SGA advisor to mitigate some of the communication problems the organization has faced the spring semester. An ad-hoc committee, led by incoming President David DeLizio and incoming Chief of Staff Yasmine Badaou, has been created to discuss possible solutions for remedying the situation with the advisors. “We’ve been working with proposals and what we can add and take off,” said Badaou. “I am not saying they are bad advisors. When they advise, they give good advice for us, but another person would help too.”
Multiple years of high school and middle school are supposed to prepare you for the journey and experiences in college. However, schools are confronted with mediocre teachers, uncooperative unions, and the relentless obstacles to education reform. The results of these challenges is the growing percentage of high school students lacking the essential skills in subjects such as Math, Science and English.

And specifically in BCC, a large percent of students are incapable of taking college-level courses; thus being placed into remedial classes. 1952 students enrolled in EBS classes in the Fall of 2015, and 1049 in Spring 2015. With that, there has been a lack of discourse with public schools in Bergen County as to why this trend has continued. “[There is] not enough of us telling them what they need, and not enough of them telling us what they [are] doing,” said Professor Adam Goodell, Dean of Humanities. “So I think it’s important for us especially for the community college to increase its communication with the high schools, and we’re trying that.”

A program called High School Outreach, a program between Bergen Community College and the high schools helps make them more aware of the placement tests. Bergen officials met with different principals, guidance counselors, and department chairs of mathematics and gave them a syllabus of all the courses explaining to them what is expected of them out of high school. But a lot of time, they turn down these proposals because they have to prepare for the ESPA (English Speaking Proficiency Assessment). “We try to make good with students and parents, so that they are aware of what is expected of the students coming to Bergen Community College, or any college for that matter,” said Developmental Math Chair Melanie Walker. It is not just this, as the teaching that occurs within the classroom also contributes to high school graduates struggling to adjust to college. In an early 90’s book called “Ed School Follies: The Miseducation of America’s Teachers” by Rita Kramer, the country is allowing mediocre teachers with little to no idea about the subject they’re assigned to teach. The reason behind that has to do with pay. For example, a 2011 study done by Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development found that the United States, teachers earned less than 60 percent of the average pay for full-time college-educated workers. In Spain, teachers earned 20 percent more.) This leads to a less competitive job field, where a lot of potentially bright teachers opt to pursue other careers that will lead to more financially rewarding jobs.

Why isn’t there any serious change? The answer is that those teachers are protected by the state licensing laws, that allow public schools to hire those teachers that do not have required credentials. Meaning, that schools have a guaranteed market and are shielded from competition. And all of that comes with politicians and Board of Education members who are pleased with the way things are now, according to George Leef, Director of Research of the John W. Pope Center for Higher Education Policy.

S.M.’s Cartoon Corner: The 2016 Presidential Candidates

"Lame Ducks"

Illustration by Sammy Almaita
Editorial: Find the Middle Ground

GABE WANISSIAN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The improving system of checks and balances allows independent voices to be heard at the May Board of Trustees meeting. After several faculty members made strong objections with the last minute inclusion to implement an honors program coordination (which would have effectively handed the honors program over to the administration), the board showed a sound sense of responsibility in0ff the ratification, as the position in question did not have a concrete job description in the proposal.

This moment of cooperation was hardly a revolutionary shift into some form of unified coalition, but it is a start and it seems as if the college finally has a framework to work out a sensible approach that can install the most optimal position for the student experience. However, the ability to hear out the other side is not just exclusive to the employees at Bergen; student clubs and organizations must also follow suit, or else this initial occurrence of rational, pragmatic planning will fall flat on its own face.

One factor you will test this, is the upcoming revenue dip from last fiscal year’s $166 million to the $17 million due to stagnant state funding and lower student enrollment, according to the College Fact Book. Last year, revenue issues led to the college’s justification of cutting 64 lecturers and 150 part-time positions towards the end of July, giving faculty chairs just one month to adequately replace those classes with adjuncts.

At the May BOT meeting, Board Chairman E. Carter Corison shared that the college may very well make cuts again, but the severity of those cuts remains to be seen. I implore the college administration that, if similar cuts are to be made, maintain a transparent and open dialogue with the rest of the employees of the college regarding the matter. A repeat of last year’s last-minute decision to make those faculty and part-time cuts would yet again blindsides the employees of the college, unraveling the progress made by securing the professional/support staff and faculty contracts.

Of course, some of these increasingly difficult decisions that the college administration has had to make are out of their control, due to current economics. However, the college should reevaluate certain aspects of college spending in times of financial austerity to prevent making cuts that would hurt the student body.

Over $51 million is spent on on-call outside contractors to take care of heating, A/C, plumbing and electrician needs; $17 million was spent last year solely on professional development, which includes a Doctorate degree program for two dozen employees through National American University. A constant stream of newly hired administrative positions over the past few years also oppose the ever-decreasing amounts of the lecturer pool.

The above mentioned occurrences are not necessarily hurting the college, as there is nothing wrong with investing some revenue into keeping the College infrastructure running optimally. I do not criticize the philosophy of trying to strengthen the college’s professional development to ensure we have capable leaders making decisions on campus. I also do not think there is anything wrong with creating administrative positions when they are needed.

But the key word here is, balance. When there is no luxury for excess riches, the impulse should not be solely to cut out BCC’s “working class,” without even trying to have an open discussion with all parties to find out what the most rational decision should be.

Let us capitalize on this current moment of clarity and be willing to hear each other out, or else we will revert back to this cycle of confusion of yesteryear; the student body would much rather prefer to not become dampened by inefficient politics.

Dear Alumni Trustee: Become the Student Voice

ANDREW FENWICK
BCC GRADUATE

I would like to congratulate you on this worthy position and you for finishing up your classes at Bergen Community College. You have worked hard in your classes—and in your community, the past few years. That is why you won and now hold this important seat on the Board of Trustees. I have been a student at Bergen for over two years and have watched, listened and spoken with countless members of the BCC community.

My very first semester at Bergen, I was lucky enough to learn about the importance of the Alumni Trustee position really is when attending a Board of Trustees meeting. I learned that the seat is very uncomfortable to sit in, and has the brightest spotlight shining on it compared to the other seats at the trustee table. Everyone will be waiting for your singular voice to echo the thousands of students you now represent. No one is truly ready to be in any position until they have already experienced doing it. In your position it is very important to ask questions, and many of them. What should I say? Who should I talk to about that? How should I come to my decision? These will all be questions that are probably already popping in your head. The advice and answers you receive through your term will be the framework of your actions in this role.

Our advice and answers to your questions should be the ones you take to be heard. You should represent us, so our perspectives on matters should be what you hold closest in your decision making. We will be your biggest supporter when things get shaky. Many of us have been student representatives for Bergen before and can be guides for unforeseen issues that arise. The club leaders on campus will be your no. 1 resource in your time, the student body and by hearing what questions should be the ones you take to be heard. You should represent us, so our perspectives on matters should be what you hold closest in your decision making. We will be your biggest supporter when things get shaky. Many of us have been student representatives for Bergen before and can be guides for unforeseen issues that arise. The club leaders on campus will be your no. 1 resource in your time, the student body and by hearing what the students. The above mentioned occurrences will be over this year, which impacts how what will appear on the Trustees’ agenda during your term.

Be prepared to see the results of the first semester with students paying to print. Be aware that the results of the next year will be over this year, which impacts how what will appear on the Trustees’ agenda during your term.

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La Esquina Latina: El Mito del “Che” Guevara

The controversial figure Guevara’s famous portrait //Wikipedia

English version available at torchbcc.com

Racism Within Spanish Cultures

LUCIA RUBI GODOY

Racism, being a very sensitive topic, is still discussed often as an issue. People talk about institutional racism, whites vs. blacks and racism within minorities, but the fact that there is racism within the same race is rarely ever discussed.

The members of the Hispanic community are guilty of being very racist towards each other. The community has a very wide variety of cultures and customs, and even though over 20 countries speak Spanish, they all have their unique ways of speaking, and use different dialects and slangs.

The racism from the Hispanic community is not limited to other Hispanics. They are unable to relate with White people, they have an open rivalry with Black people, and every single Asian is “Chinese.” They are also almost completely ignorant and unwilling to learn about the Middle Eastern culture.

For example, some Bolivians may have hard feelings against Chileans because Chile blocks the Pacific Ocean for them, depriving them from using it. Some countries have rivalries over territories, (after many different European backgrounds, (after many different European immigrants escaped there after WW II) and intertwined with the already Spaniard-influenced Argentines and the rest of the South American and Asian immigration, is infamous racism. This is seen with its really competitive relationship with Uruguay, since they have a very similar culture, and with other countries like Colombia, Venezuela, and Ecuador, because they all have talented soccer teams.

The problem with this, is that in America, Hispanics continue to be one of the largest minorities, but if they segregate by countries because of historical rivalries, it only adds to the hate that the whole race receives from outsiders.

It is bad enough that some uneducated Americans will categorize all Hispanics as Mexicans, but it is even worse that many Hispanics will be offended by being called so. The fact that we take it so offensively to be called a different kind of Hispanic by being called so. The fact that we take it so offensively is terrible. We are not going to be bothered by being called so. The fact that we take it so offensively is terrible. We are not going to be bothered by being called so. The fact that we take it so offensively and葡萄牙语时，使用葡萄牙语。
**FEATURES**

**The Torch**

**Bright Future for Bergen's Wrestling Captain**

**CHRISTINE VILLALOBOS**

"Stay focused and don't forget about your grades. Give yourself a good chance to wrestle by maintaining good grades."

-James Henry

 maintained motivation can come naturally for some and it can be challenging for others. For James Henry, the 22-year-old wrestling captain here at Bergen Community College, staying motivated has been nothing but hard work.

Henry went from being curious about the wrestling posters in his class as an eighth grader to the co-creator of Rift Wrestling Club in Hackensack. There, he coaches young, aspiring wrestlers in fine tuning their skills. Henry, shifting his eyes away, as to look back in time, grasped at a distant memory, “Growing up, I wasn’t the type of kid to have a lot of friends... Basically the scenario for me was like for any other kid. After middle school, instead of getting into trouble, I decided I was going to wrestle,” said Henry.

Henry is currently the captain of BCC’s wrestling team. As a wrestling captain, his duties include leading team practices, keeping the wrestlers up-to-date and motivated for their matches, and making sure the team maintains a good academic profile. In order to meet the wrestling team standards, “Coaches aren’t just your coaches, they’re like family. They look after you and make sure you’re okay,” said Henry.

Henry was eager to give advice to any curious wrestler looking to join the wrestling team at BCC. “Stay focused and don’t forget about your grades. Give yourself a good chance to wrestle by maintaining good grades.”

“As if keeping his grades up and overseeing the wrestling team wasn’t difficult enough, Henry tore his anterior cruciate ligament during his first semester in 2014. Since his ACL wasn’t completely torn, he continued wrestling regardless of the risks that come with putting stress on his injured knee.”

“I was frustrated at times. But working with my coach [Ed Kochakji], who was also the coach of Mike Massenzio, the holder of the Division III National Wrestling Championship title, made me want to work harder and push myself,” said Henry.

Mike Massenzio or ‘The Master of Disaster’ according to the UFC Fighter Profile, was a head coach at BCC, who holds a remarkable UFC record of 13-7-0 (Wins, Losses, and Draws). His coach, Coach Ed

**The Leader Within You Has Awakened**

**ALYSSA BLUNDO**

"Everyone felt the force at Leadership Weekend on Friday, April 15 to Sunday, April 17 at the Dolce hotel in Basking Ridge, NJ. There, students spent three days and two nights learning leadership skills and preparing, so that they could be used in our daily lives while participating in fun activities inspired by “Star Wars: The Force Awakens.” There were presentations from Bergen Community College professors, Gene Calderon, Win Win Kyi, and Professor Mecheline Farhat spoke. Mr. Ronald McKnight and Ms. Gloria Cevallos also presented as well as Keynote Speaker, Jon Vroman. All of these presenters have qualities that leaders should have and it showed in their demonstrations.

When asked about defining a leader, Christiana Aghjayan, a Student Activities Board member and BCC Freshman, told the Torch, “A leader is somebody who knows what their team wants and is a team player, but also knows how to guide people for the better good of the entire team.”

These traits were present in the film, “Star Wars: The Force Awakens,” in which Rey was the heroine. This wasn’t the only theme that was presented at Leadership Weekend. Diversity also played a key role.

When asked about how “Star Wars” and leadership related to each other, Andrew Fenwick, a student facilitator that will be graduating in August of 2016, told the Torch, “Star Wars was a great reference for leadership skills because every single character [in the movie] is different and yet they all show how leaders come in different shapes, and sizes and even colors.

One of the professors that presented on Saturday was Professor Win Win Kyi, who has been teaching college students for 44 years. She did a session on how leadership and culture are related to each other.

When asked about how they are related, Professor Kyi said, “I think that leadership and culture are like the head and the body connected. Think of the leadership as the head and then the culture as the body. It is an awesome task to become a leader and some of us have different kinds of skills. There are certain leaders that are eloquent, they can speak, talk, and have dialogue. Then there you have the more quieter leaders, the intellectually quiet. Their force is in the quiet state of mind and there are others that are forceful.”

There was a lot of action involved at Leadership Weekend, especially in the keynote presentation as well as the activities that were present. It was also an emotional roller coaster for everyone. The most emotional part of the weekend was sharing personal stories and doing the closing activities.

Participants in the proceedings can be difficult, but leaders can break down barriers and jump over hurdles that life throws at them. Even leaders struggle, and yet they overcome their obstacles, just like Rey overcame hers by facing Kylo Ren. It was an incredible weekend, and everyone had a blast."
Memento Of a Fallen Brother

While on campus at Bergen Community College, I have been frequently asked if I have ever been in the military. I have never been in the military, but every day I wear my cousin's dog tags in honor of him. On occasion, it does become very difficult to talk about my cousin, Sgt. Matthew J. Fenton. We were close, as close as brothers would be, and I still can not believe that this year on May 5, will be a decade since his passing. He served in the military as a United States Marine. He passed away on May 5, 2006. It certainly is a tragedy that Matthew is no longer walking upon this earth, but our family is still doing their best to keep his memory alive. For those who had the privilege of knowing him, he was certainly one in a million. He was nothing but selfless, as his actions speak louder than words. I have the utmost respect for all the brave men and women who serve in the military, as I could not imagine the perils they face on a daily basis.

He joined the Marines right out of high school. Before he became a heroic marine, I was able to witness a unique laugh. We were different ages but all three of us even shared a common love for the show"G.I. Joe." As the oldest of the three, we had all watched many "G.I. Joe" movies and cartoons for days on end. Which were, I'm sure, was one of the reasons why my cousin could make a big joke out of most things. We were different ages but all three of us even went to the same high school. Matt, was a big joker and had a big crew of friends that were a force not to be reckoned with. All of us would become a huge group and still to this day we share that same bond. It was not just about Matthew, or one of our friends in particular, nor myself, but it was about all of us being together; just as a family would want to be.

He would always strive to be the best at everything or at least he would confidently claim to be; he would have that fiendish smirk across his face as an attempt to hold back his unique laugh. He had a certain knack for telling stories that would put mine to shame. I wish he was still here to tell them.

On April 26, 2006 my family was given the bad news about my cousin. Every military family always fears that call of bad news and hopes that they would never get one. While he was overseas in Iraq, he was injured in the line of duty. He had saved his Marine brothers from a suicide bomber. Once he was back in the States, my family and I all had hopes that Matthew would pull through. Unfortunately, He would pass away at home on U.S. soil, nine days later on May 5, the day after he was awarded the Purple Heart medal for his actions of selfless bravery.

“He would always strive to be the best at everything or at least he would confidently claim to be; he would have that fiendish smirk across his face as an attempt to hold back his unique laugh.”

(Continues on pg. 18)

1994 Genocide in Rwanda: The Story of Eugenie Mukeshimana

FERNANDO VAZQUEZ  STAFF WRITER

The Genocide Studies Speaker series, co-sponsored by the Center for Peace, Justice and Reconciliation and the Office of Multicultural Affairs, hosted a wonderful event. Eugenie Mukeshimana, a survivor of the 1994 Genocide against Tutsis and the founder and executive director of the Genocide Survivors Support Network (a charitable organization with a mission to help out genocide survivors), made a wonderful presentation and shared her heartbreaking memories to the audience at the Student Center Auditorium (Room A-404).

Mukeshimana ended with a calm introduction of Rwanda's inhabitants and its beautiful cultures, the Tutsis, Hutus and the Batwas. She described the wonders of Rwanda, its nature and picturesque sights of the forests, elephants, gorillas, and chimpanzees, among other beautiful attractions and a country with a strong environmental movement and ideas. According to Mukeshimana, since 2012, the country completely banned plastic bags.

Mukeshimana, a Tutsi, told the history of Rwanda. Before the Berlin Conference and the conquest from Germany until the end of the first World War, the country was controlled by the Ruanda-Urundi (the Belgian mandate). The Tutsis, Hutus, and Batwas were united; they bartered their own goods and lived in peace with each other, until the Belgian government worked to divide the ethnic groups. Under Belgian rule, the Tutsis were given better treatment and the Hutus were treated as second-class citizens.

Mukeshimana told a heartbreaking memory about when she and her classmates were harassed by the Hutu soldiers on their way to school, the moment when she was in trouble with a school assistant because the young, poor, and innocent girl didn't know her ethnicity and what was going on because of the Hutu treatment against the Tutsis. When she was eight months pregnant and married, she witnessed Tutsis being executed by the Hutus.

The following day, soldiers, police and Hutu militias came to Mukeshimana's home to execute her family, but they were able to bribe their would-be executioners and their lives were saved, at least until nightfall. Eugenie and her husband abandoned their household, to avoid the threats from their Hutu neighbors, since the Hutu militias has already executed their Tutsi neighbors. Mukeshimana survived by escaping to the household of a foreigner who opposed Hutu ideas and gave her and four women shelter, until the policemen found out. Mukeshimana witnessed the execution of two women while the captain of the police offered her to be his "housewife" or "get two bullets" and she was able to survive as a servant until the genocide ceased.

"It gives me heartbreak and anger to tell this situation of my life," said Mukeshimana. She lost her beloved father, husband and close family members in the genocide.

Mukeshimana ended with a powerful quote. “I want to share my story, for those who do not learn history are doomed to repeat it!” But there is a way to stop it, to share my story and in these years to come, it won’t happen again.”

Eugenie Mukeshima shares her personal experiences of survival (Henry Fowlers)
Brooklyn Feels The Bern: An Exclusive Look Into the People Behind the Sanders Phenomenon

BY GABE WANISSIAN

The thousands of Sanders supporters trying to push the Vermont Senator and self-described democratic socialist, ahead to a New York victory against the overwhelming favorite Hillary Clinton, took the stage to a deafening applause. Creative atmosphere that was more befitting to a music festival from the 1960s. Creative band Grizzly Bear, and Hawaiian Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard came out in twenty somethings; various age groups, ethnicities, and political affiliations.

The numbers don’t lie. The thousands of onlookers were trying to push the Vermont Senator, and self-described democratic socialist, ahead to a New York victory against the overwhelming favorite Hillary Clinton, took the stage to a deafening applause. Creative atmosphere that was more befitting to a music festival from the 1960s. Creative band Grizzly Bear, and Hawaiian Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard came out in twenty somethings; various age groups, ethnicities, and political affiliations.

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The thousands of Sanders supporters were not looking to go anywhere anytime soon, and if the enthusiasm seen at the Brooklyn rally was a tell tale sign of the things that are to come, then a drastic metamorphosis is occurring in the political landscape.

The dialogue between Sanders supporters became wildly enthusiastic the closer one approached the rally stage. Nineteen-year-old Savion Washington, who was undecided between Clinton and Sanders, found himself to be both odds and in tune with his discourses amongst Sanders supporters.

"I didn't think that I would have some interesting conversations for sure," said Washington, a Dance major at SUNY Purchase, “especially with the older people.” Washington, who represents the demographics that many credit to the allure of Sanders, felt that older voters usually criticize his age group being “wildly idealistic.”

Washington was not the only undecided attendee. Those who refrained from being inside the packed crowd joined the rally out of sheer curiosity; some coming from across the Atlantic Ocean.

"I can't bring myself to believe that I can't make a difference," said Washington, "I just don't know how much Congress would work with us. So I still don't know if I would vote for him just yet." Washington was not the only undecided attendee. Those who refrained from being inside the packed crowd joined the rally out of sheer curiosity; some coming from across the Atlantic Ocean.

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Superheroes Inspired by Judaism

Bestselling author and Rabbi, Simcha Weinstein came to Bergen Community College on March 31 to discuss how the Jewish Culture and History shaped the comic book hero, at an event hosted by BCC’s Hillel club. In 2006, Weinstein’s first book “Up Up and Oy Vey,” was published. In 2008, he released his second book “Shtick Shift: Jewish Humor in the 21st Century.” At the event, Weinstein explained that every single superhero that encapsulated the imagination of the world for some 70-80 years are the works of Jewish writers, Jewish illustrators as well as Jewish marketers. The question is, why is the superhero a Jewish invention? “The late 1950s were a very particularly anti-Semitic period in American history. If you were a Jew with artistic acumen you couldn’t get into the mainstream arts. Many Ivy league schools barred Jews from living there. Country clubs and even neighbourhoods barred Jews from getting involved,” said Weinstein. “Advertising would not hire Jews. The comic books were a joke, they would give it away for free in the middle of newspapers, there were no barriers to entry and the doors were always wide open, and so many young immigrants found this door to which they wanted right in.”

In the 1930s, the first action comic superman was published. Superman is the creation of two Jewish men, Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster. The creation of Superman was a very difficult topic. It is known to be a very interesting, realistic, and philosophical novel. “Between the World and Me” consists of a very challenging topic, an interesting, realistic, and philosophical novel. It’s something to be proud of.

A Letter for a Troubled Society!

The novel, Ta-Nehisi Coates’ “Between the World and Me,” describes a very difficult topic. It is known to be an interesting and philosophical novel. Its storyline is about the troubled U.S. and society and the most intimate concerns of a father for his son.

Coates’ attempt to answer in a letter to his fourteen-year-old son, explains to him and shares the stories of his awakening to the truth about his place, a former Howard University to the South Side of Chicago. This also continues from his childhood home in Baltimore, to his friend’s suspicious death, and to the living rooms of mothers whose children’s lives were taken, explaining serious occurrences of injustices and police brutality. Through a series of dramatic and colorful experiences, Coates’ vision coincides into the segregation and violence around the Civil Rights Movement era, to the reality of racism and violence seen today.

The novel breaks down into three wonderful letters, according to Coates’ set which was in Bembo, a typeface based on an old style Roman face, in the early sixteenth century for Italian Renaissance painter and publisher Aldus Manutius (1449-1515). These letters aim at being black in the U.S. Coates paraphrases the American history of violence against the African-American communities and it’s unfair vigilance from the law over the black youth. Ta-Nehisi Coates’ “Between the World and Me” consists of a controversial and philosophical novel that cannot be ignored. Toni Morrison praised this wonderful novel. “The Language of Between the World and Me, like Coates’ journey, is visceral, eloquent, and beautifully redemptive. Its examination of the hazards and hopes of black male life is as profound as it is riveting. This acquired reading” said Morrison. “Between the World and Me could be a very challenging topic, interesting, realistic, and philosophical novel that all young men and women should read.”

What Are Psychology Majors Up Against?

The Psychology Club at Bergen Community College and Psi Beta invited Psychologist Nansie Ross to talk to the students. The psychologist had spent 16 years doing school psychology, and 16 years doing private psychology.

The psychology club on room C-324 filled up quickly with members of the Psychology club and other students. Nansie Ross began by describing the academic process that one must go through to be a therapist, a psychiatrist, a clinical psychologist, and what the legal difference is between them.

Ross encouraged the students to pursue psychology. “It’s fun, but it is as she says “very rewarding. People who walk in are usually looking for help,” said Ross.

The psychologist discussed techniques used to overcome phobias, which are irrational fears of specific things or activities. She explained how during therapy, patients or clients are helped to treat different disorders, like anxiety and stress.

As of now, she sees mostly teenagers. “It can be very frustrating and emotionally draining,” said Ross. She explained that teenagers want to be heard, but it is also common to welcome patients that will sit down for the whole hour of therapy and not say a word. Many of them don’t know what to say if they are not used to being listened to.

Ross recommended to anybody pursuing psychology as a career to maintain a life outside the office, since it is very emotionally draining. Since a psychologist who works on private practice manages his or her own schedule, it is possible to work long hours and late afternoons.

Finally, Nansie Ross provided students with links to different websites in which they can search for volunteer opportunities in the field. This is useful for psychology students, since they need a certain amount of practice hours in order to be a professional.
Every day, students may walk into school, mind their own business not knowing about the incredible people on campus. Nia Whittingham, a second year student and mother of lovely daughter Nala, gave the Torch and in depth look into what it’s like to be a part-time student and full-time mother, day in and day out.

As she started her second semester, the last thing on her mind was a pregnancy. “During the time I felt sick, I thought I had the flu because everyone was getting sick. I just had to assume that was the case,” said Whittingham.

The morning sickness continued, and she was surprised to have missed her period. “I had an ultrasound done. I saw a dancing baby, literally. I wish I could have recorded it.” The surprise caused her to nervously panic. “I tried not to stress as much, because I knew I had to tell my mom. The hardest part was obviously telling my parents. My boyfriend and I told our parents together.”

A couple of days after telling her family the truth, her mother accepted the fact that she was pregnant and was happy to know she would soon be a grandmother. After her second semester, commuting to and from school became stressful, she decided to take a break from school to take care of herself as she awaited the birth of her baby, who was due in October 2015.

She was hesitant when her mother pitched the idea about taking online classes. “It was too hard at the end of my pregnancy, so I was sleepy, always kept up at night, and I was also extra-emotional,” said Whittingham. It was hard enough for her to focus on homework already, since at the time she was taking Introduction to Business and Sociology.

During this demanding time, her boyfriend stuck by her, “he said he would be there for everything, but I was also extra-emotional,” said Whittingham. “I had an ultrasound done. I saw a dancing baby, literally. I wish I could have recorded it.” The surprise caused her to nervously panic. “I tried not to stress as much, because I knew I had to tell my mom. The hardest part was obviously telling my parents. My boyfriend and I told our parents together.”

A Conversation with Rafiullah Naveed, SGA Senator

When Rafiullah Naveed became a senator of the Student Government Association this spring, he knew he had found diverse crossroads at BCC. “While I was working at the Information Desk this semester, I found out much more detail about the SGA. I submitted an application with an essay including 500 words and got two deans to sign my application,” said Naveed, who started at BCC in fall of 2014. He was, and still is, also a part of the International Student Association.

“In this club, students with different races and ethnicities describe their aspects, ideas, and differences of their culture and countries.”

Naveed knew much about collaboration, thanks to his background in science and academics. He was working on a chemistry project in STEM this January. “The process of learning how to help others, working as a team, and coming up with solutions has helped me face the problems that students were facing helped me become a senator in the SGA,” he said. As a senator, he joined both the athletic and diversity committees.

“The diversity committee involves people talking about the differences in their races and ethnicities and sharing their ideas from their countries, which is similar to the International Student Association,” Naveed said. Even though they don’t always speak proper
BERGEN STATES PRESENTS SOUTH PACIFIC: THE FIGHT AGAINST PREJUDICE

ADAM GRASSANI
SPORTS EDITOR

Bergen Stages hosted yet another one of their plays at the Ciccone Theatre. This time, a large crowd of students got a strong feel of atmosphere of the Pacific during a time of war when they witnessed the play “South Pacific.”

“The setting and action takes place in two South Pacific islands during the time of World War II. A man by the name of Emile de Becque (played by Philip Hackett) and a woman named Nellie Forbush (played by Sarah Strickland) are slowly starting to fall in love. However, multiple bumps in the road come during their relationship, the first coming when Nellie discovers that Emile once murdered a man out of rebellion. This gets the U.S. Navy force stationed on the island interested in Emile; they ask Nellie for any information about him, putting Nellie under a lot of pressure. Emile to offer him to join the military. In the beginning, Emile refuses, as he wishes to live the rest of his life with Nellie. However, Nellie discovers that he already had two kids of his own with a dark skinned woman, which causes Nellie to break up with him, exposing her prejudice against blacks. Afterward, the heartbroken Emile agrees to join the Navy with Cable. This theme is emphasized throughout the play, as Cable goes through a similar problem with prejudice against dark skins. A woman, Bloody Mary, is searching for a man for her daughter, Liat. Believing Cable to be a perfect match, Bloody Mary hooks the two up. She couldn’t be more right as Cable and Liat fall in love. However, Cable fears what his peers will think of him if he goes through with the marriage of a dark skinned girl. Cable then gives in to his prejudice and leaves Liat. I think it’s got a great lesson about not being prejudiced,” said Jim Bumgardner, receiving the news that Cable had died in the battle. Nellie immediately believes Emile to be dead as well. She then goes back to Emile’s place to visit his kids, wanting to get over her initial prejudice against them. Emile returns home from war to Nellie, who finally agrees to marriage; a fantastic ending to such a fantastic show.

BCC HOLDS PROGRESSIVE MALE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

MICHELLE CORREA
SPORTS WRITER

Over 100 male students attended the Progressive Male Leadership Conference hosted by the Office of Multicultural Affairs here at Bergen Community College. The main objective was to motivate students who are on the path to becoming leaders.

The event took place on April 7, 2016 in the Tech Building in Room Tec-128, starting off with leadership expert Matthew Horace as the first keynote speaker. There were 15 speakers that the students were able to hear from. The speakers were comprised of influential male leaders from different professions. Many topics were discussed, from education, careers and financial literacy.

Male middle and high school students from Teaneck, Englewood, Hackensack, and many other towns in Bergen County took part in this inspiring event. Mr. Ron McKnight, the Director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs, spoke for a good hour and made all the students feel at home.

“Ron McKnight gave such an interesting speech targeted to Black and Latino males about how important it is to be a leader, how important it is to step up and realize what your potential can give you and that really hit home for me, before attending Bergen Community College I never really had that Black male presence until I met Ron McKnight. It really just cemented why I’m doing the things that I do at BCC,” said SGA Chief of Staff Nicholas Scales.

Scales said that he has a great relationship with Mr. McKnight and is very thankful for it. In addition, Scales was a student speaker for this event. He encouraged all the students at the conference to not give up, and to strive for what they are most passionate about, regardless of the obstacles they might run into. Scales reassured all students that at the end of the day, it’s all worth it and it’s okay to make mistakes because we are all human; we are not perfect.

By learning about these important topics, students were connecting and engaging with the male panelists. Full of energy, Anthony Johnson, award-winning journalist at WABC-TV served as the afternoon keynote speaker for this uplifting event. The event was a success and motivated many students to shape themselves into the leaders.
Understanding North Korea

FLORENCIA LLOSAS

Dr. Kyi J. Yi, a journalist, professor, and worker for international relations, delivered a presentation for Asian Heritage Week explaining in a captivating manner North Korea’s reasoning behind their constant threat of nuclear development. He opened with a very simple truth: that he was not there to supply solutions. “If I had them, I wouldn’t be here,” he said.

The Bergen Professor went on to explain the contrast of the development behind Kim Jong-un’s ruling of the Republic. Contrasting France’s early revolution-inspired art, and North Korea’s own, Dr. Yi showed his audience how the five million dollar supporters see Kim’s development of Ballistic missiles as the modern equivalent of the late French movement.

“When you put violence in the right context, it becomes beautiful, it becomes sacrificial,” Dr. Yi explained. He also showed the audience the rationale behind the Supreme Leader’s actions, and why we, as products of a different culture, fail to comprehend it. He explained that Kim Jong-Un must live up to the expectations of his millions of supporters, just like his father and grandfather did before him. And through his slide show and a video, also showed the difference between both American and North Korean rationalization, which explained why Western “rationalism” will not work when trying to reach a compromise with this government. Kim Jong-un still believes the fervent idea that North America is an Imperialist country which needs to be taken down.

“The National psyche is one of on-going revolution,” said Dr. Yi. If Kim talks to western “rational” followers [around 20 percent of the Nation’s citizens] will think he is a traitor. If he accepts rationalism, what will he become? In his own way, [Kim] is very calculating, and he become? In his own way, he is a traitor. If he accepts rationalism, what will he become? In his own way, [Kim] is very calculating, and very effective. He wants to be recorded as North Korea’s Jesus of Nazareth.

He expressed his concern for the country, repeating more than once how no one should underestimate, nor mock the dynasty, because it is a powerful one. “They have 80 percent of the technology done,” he said, talking about the nuclear missiles. “This Nation can really achieve something. They could really create things out of nothing,” said the professor.

However, Dr. Yi concluded his presentation on a more hopeful note, by showing pictures he took as a journalist on his journey to the country.

“I have hope in my heart that this situation is not completely hopeless. There is a significant part of the North Korean nation who are willing to work with us.”

Malaysia

MARIA SUAREZ

Miangalabal. (Myanmar for Hello) said Dr. Win Win Kyi to the audience in A-104. This foreign greeting originates from the people of Myanmar as it was presented on April 12 by Bergen Community College’s Dr. Kyi in her inspirational speech for Asia Now. It is the foreign tongue that does not have the need to distinguish between good morning, good afternoon, or good evening, but does however, differentiate the language of the woman and of the man, unlike English that generalizes language into I, Us, and We.

When the audience was asked what do Americans value, answers varied from the freedom of speech and the right to vote. The people of Myanmar did not have any of this. Instead they were immobilized to never learn to be critical thinkers, never to have creativity. They lived under authoritarian foreign rule for years. Myanmar was subject to rule by both China and India, and thus its culture was heavily influenced by these two large nations.

Just recently, Dr. Kyi was given the opportunity to vote in her country. “Better late than never,” she said. Up until recently the country lacked any form of freedom of speech and the saying, “Brain’s frozen, shut, Ears closed, and Mouths cemented,” came about.

In 1886, Myanmar became a province of India. It was originally divided religiously, culturally and linguistically. After being colonized, native inhabitants were not allowed to use their own language. In schools, they had to change their hereditary name than to attend, if they even had the opportunity or money to go. They were limited to counting only to a hundred and reading and writing was scarce. At this time, education was a privilege that many did not have. It was valued but it was only for the wealthy. Dr. Kyi says that education is the greatest equalizer. “Education is the gift that no one could steal from you. I could steal your diamonds. I could, if I want, steal your castle. I could steal your island. I could steal your plane, but I could never steal your education.”

Following independence in January 1948, Myanmar was its own worst enemy. Schools were nationalized and more money was spent on the military than on education. Several of their leaders were uneducated and unqualified. They gave out “guns like lollipops.” It was the longest civil war in its independent history.

Today, Dr. Kyi teaches the acronym for LEADERSHIP “Love Entertainment And Dedication Equals Respect, So Help Inspire People.” Respect is a two-way street. Respect to one’s country is the beginning of an overall pulse of diverse people around us.

Myanmar: Past, Present, Future

Dr. Win Win Kyi addresses the audience! Henry Fowler

KATHERINE CINALLAS

The Philosophy Club and Philosophy and Religion professors gave a presentation on Confucius Teaching in Modern Society. The event, which took place on Tuesday April 12 at 12:30, in A-104, was open to anyone who was interested in learning. Professors originally divided religiously, culturally and linguistically. After being colonized, native inhabitants were not allowed to use their own language. In schools, they had to change their hereditary name than to attend, if they even had the opportunity or money to go. They were limited to counting only to a hundred and reading and writing was scarce. At this time, education was a privilege that many did not have. It was valued but it was only for the wealthy. Dr. Kyi says that education is the greatest equalizer. “Education is the gift that no one could steal from you. I could steal your diamonds. I could, if I want, steal your castle. I could steal your island. I could steal your plane, but I could never steal your education.”

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CONFUCIUS TEACHING IN MODERN SOCIETY

Peter Dlugos and Wayne Bustin led the presentation with talks, PowerPoints, and videos. Confucianism has a very impactful influence on East Asian culture and society. Professor Bustin said “if you read Confucius, his philosophy seems very simple. They obtained natural observations. So you wonder why this philosophy was so important for development of East Asia.”

Professor Bustin and Dr. Dlugos explained that Confucianism is not just about the great society, it is all about the individual responsibility of each person. “We often think of China having a very collective type of mentality, but actually, Confucianism was first about the individual. It is about correcting your own ways and maintaining your morality and then transforming the world around you. It really started from the individual and built its way up. The thing about Confucianism is that it can be an emperor or a common farmer, both of them had the same responsibility,” Bustin explained.

The philosophy was deployed by the governments of China first, then with trade and political interactions, it spread throughout the rest of other Asian countries. “It became more than a philosophy, it became a useful way of uniting a nation” said Bustin.

China went through their own cultural revolution and had impacted Confucianism not too long ago. Then, a video showing when China was under Mao Zedong’s rule and how it had shaken the culture and people was played. Mao Zedong didn’t want people to have any ideas other than Maosim; a famous quote from Mao was “You don’t become an emperor by reading books,” telling his people in several occasions “you don’t need to think.” Ultimately, it differed from Confucius’ teachings, which valued teaching and studying.

Dlugos and Wayne then did some Q & A and some professors had shared their experiences from growing up with the teachings in their own household, and even their experience from their country regarding their Chinese background. Confucius’ teachings can be applied to everyday life. It teaches one to be selfless, facing one toward the morally right path, and the aspects of our responsibility as humans.
The whole family was devastated by his loss. Once Sgt. Matthew Fenton had passed on, there was a huge magnificent funeral for him. The whole town of Little Ferry, the Marines, and the Veterans from previous wars all came together in his honor. Once we all started walking down Liberty Street, all of the walls were actually saluted as a huge American flag were draped high above the street. I still do not know how we had the strength to march down the whole street. But as we all walked under it, we all had tears in our eyes as we were doing our best to hold each other up.

After we all stopped marching behind the hearse, Matthew’s fellow Marines stood motionless as they were dressed to the ‘T’ in their full dress blues uniform. One of them broke from the formation. Once he opened the door of the hearse the whole family gasped. The marines carried his coffin out and it had been draped over with an American flag. They began to carry his coffin upon the streets of his hometown, and they did it proudly with so much gratitude and honor towards one of their brothers who was no longer with us. Right before they reached the doors of the funeral home, they stopped and one of the marines took the flag off his coffin. He turned around with the flag in hand and as he began to fold it. The doors of the funeral home, they stopped and one of the marines took the flag off. The whole family continued to shed more tears as he gave it to Matthew’s mother. After my aunt, Diane Fenton, had received the flag from the marine, she hugged the marine; they both had tears in their eyes.

I was very distraught at the time and I don’t remember much of the ceremony after that. I still recall that it felt like on that day the whole town became our family as we faced it together and as the day came to a close, I realized that I was proud of Matthew’s level of dedication and of his loyalty.

Matthew’s actions were not just for his immediate family but also for the strangers that he will never have the privilege of knowing, nor will the new generation ever recognize his heroism. I would rather struggle to tell his story, yet it would be such a shame if the people of this world would forget his name. There is so much more that I would love to write about it and it is a privilege and a great honor to share his story with anyone. Some people get very quiet as they do hear the answer of why I wear his dog tags. Most do try to change the subject as They see my eyes start to tear up.

But to be honest, I would rather cry while telling his story, than having Matt’s legacy become a forgotten one. Even at family events, I still feel as though there is a void where he should be present. I do wish he was still here, but not just because I miss him terribly, it is more about him. That he is missing out on everything since his passing. I really do wish there was peace, so the good don’t have to die young.

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**Batman Vs. Superman: Dawn of Disappointment**

NOT ONLY was this movie Batman vs. Superman, but it was also fans vs. critics. Before the movie even came out critics were writing bad reviews, calling it “boring” and “plodding.” This infuriated DC fans and they claimed that critics were being Marvel-biased and many even believed that critics were being paid to write negative reviews. Rotten Tomatoes’ top critics gave Batman vs. Superman: Dawn of Justice a 26 percent rating. The actual truth was to be revealed when the movie finally came out. And for once the fans owe the critics an apology.

Zack Snyder’s two hour and a half movie was indeed boring and plodding. The movie gradually showed the conflict between Batman (Ben Affleck) and Superman (Henry Cavill) battling for glory. It was kind of hard to understand at first, that Batman and Superman hated each other and they each wanted to be superior to the other. It was never revealed why they had such an intense conflict to begin with. The city of Metropolis despised Superman for being reckless by accidentally harming the citizens during rescues, (shows how ungrateful people can be). We later discover that the government was trying to eliminate Superman and who else would we leave the investigation up to than the lovely journalist Lois Lane (Amy Adams).

Nothing too exciting happens in the first two hours of the movie. It was filled with predictability and awkward encounters between Batman and Superman, exchanging blows. It kept you wondering when the action was going to kick in. Affleck was not the best choice to play the part of Batman. Not that he is a bad actor, it just did not feel right. Not to mention his costume was lame; it looked very fake, nothing was intimating about it.

The villain of the movie, Lex Luthor (Jesse Eisenberg), gets a hold of some kryptonite, which as we all know is Superman’s weakness, and then he creates the monster from the comics, Doomsday. Eisenberg’s acting in this movie was very impressive, especially since he has never showed this wicked side to him.

The only interesting character of the movie was Wonder Woman. Gal Gadot caught your attention with her mysterious and attractive personality. And she definitely took away the spotlight at the end of the movie where she came to save the day (and the movie) with her extraordinary powers.

Batman vs. Superman has made over 851.6 million dollars internationally since its release date, March 25. Surprisingly this movie made more than The Avengers did on its first weekend, and that only happened because we have all been waiting so long for a DC movie.

The Torch recommends you fast forward to the last 30 minutes because you really won’t be missing much.

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**Bards and Scribes Club Holds Autobiographical Poetry Workshop**

EMILY WEIKL

**CONTRIBUTING WRITER**

Imagine yourself as a house. What would you look like? Would there be shutters on the windows, or would light flood in from every one? This was a writing prompt in the Jonathan Findura-lead poetry workshop on autobiographical poetry. The prompt was inspired by one of the poems read in the workshop, called “Scary, No Scary” by Zachary Schomburg. One interpretation of the poem that was discussed was that the narrator was talking about his past self as a house that those around him were returning to. Everyone there, including Findura, wrote on this.

Findura has published his own poetry and works in Bergen Community College’s writing center. He started the workshop off with this information, and followed with more background about the genre of autobiographical poetry itself. “It was a movement that started in the 1950s and carried into the 60s,” said Findura.

This kind of poetry, also known as confessional poetry, involved very open and honest personal revelations. A few poets that wrote like this were John Berryman, Robert Lowell, and Sylvia Plath. Surprisingly, all of these poets had a mental health issue of some sort. By the 1970s, this type of poetry was no longer popular.

Findura said that, in poetry, “one of the jobs of the poet is to make it interesting.” For example, in Plath’s poem “Daddy,” which was discussed in the workshop, she compares her relationship with her father to that of a Jew and a Nazi in World War II. Plath did not outright condemn her father, but did so and explored it through this comparison. An interesting factoid is that the line “Ghastly statue with one gray toe” refers to Mr. Plath dying from an infection in his toe.

“What intrigues me is how people’s minds work,” Findura said. In autobiographical poetry, the machinations of one’s mind are on full display.
Barbie dolls now come with four types which are petite, small and curvy. Yet, that's not what all the creative team members of the team couldn't tell their loved ones with fear that the project might be exposed. Mattel has created attention from everyone around the world. It was so secretive that the “Project Dawn” was released to Times Magazine on January 28, drawinghdr to their own, whether as a way to play, or something as deep as filling the void of being very shy, enough to never have friends. Sadly, many have never had the privilege to look at a doll that resembles their body shape, eye color, or skin tone.

However, thanks to a creative team that included Kim Culmone and Robert Best from the company Mattel itself, things have changed. The toy company Mattel just announced its biggest project yet. “Project Dawn” was released to Times Magazine on January 28, drawing attention from everyone around the world. It was so secretive that the members of the team couldn’t tell their loved ones with fear that the project might be exposed. Mattel has created three new dolls with realistic body types which are petite, small and curvy. Yet, that’s not what all the creative team did. Barbie dolls now come with four different body shapes, seven different skin tones, 22 different eye colors, and 24 different hair styles. The question that is on everyone’s mind is, what inspired the creative team to create these new dolls?

Unfortunately, one of the reasons is the decrease of sales since both Disney’s Frozen and the Lego’s new Barbi skin tone, eye color, sexual orientation or disabilities, only adds to our beauty and uniqueness. Mattel is trying to teach the younger girls that even if the original blonde hair and blue eyed Barbies are beautiful, the new petite, curly and small ones are just as beautiful.

The great thing is BCC students now have the privilege to get an education and fight for change, whether it is for the change in a doll, or teaching the younger girls that the word “beautiful” has more than one meaning.

Bergen girls can be affected by the new Barbie by those girls who are taking care of a younger sibling or even themselves who have a problem with self-confidence can look up to someone older and of course, the new Barbie can be reassured that they are beautiful. Adult students can give their daughter a Barbie doll that looks likes them and is dressed in the occupation they’re trying to get can reassure their daughters, ‘hey, mommy and Barbie are both beautiful and can do something for the world, you can too,’” said Genesis Fuentes, a first-year student at Bergen. The new changes are seen as minor to many individuals, but it’s a huge change for the younger girls that will become women one day.
James Henry squaring up for his wrestling meet/Bergen Sports

Bright Future for Bergen’s Wrestling Captain

(Continued from pg. 10)

(who just retired after 30 years of coaching), is an inductee of the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Wrestling Hall of Fame. To say the least, having these two positive and inspirational role models in Henry’s life contributed to his determination in reaching his goals.

“Keeping my head in the game was a really big struggle knowing that I had pain in my left knee each match. But each time, I would remind myself of the type of coach I had, a living legend in the sport of wrestling. He would keep my head in the game and he taught me how to stay focused.”

This past year, Henry was qualified to compete at the National Wrestling Championship. Although, he didn’t take home the medal, he got a taste of what it’s like competing with the top wrestlers.

“I’ve seen how hungry those wrestlers were to get the win. They will do anything possible to get it,” he said. Now that Henry’s seen what he’s up against, there’s no stopping this wrestling captain in his task to getting the National Championship title.

“The sport of wrestling overall takes so much sacrifice and time. It’s a way of life for me.”

“I’m going to train over the summer long. I want to get my body in mint condition and I’m going to do that the correct and healthy way with proper diet. I’m on a mission now,” Henry said. The inspiration by his coaches to be the best version himself, as a student and a wrestler, is an addition to the fuel Henry needs to keep going.

Part Time Student, Full Time Mother

(Continued from pg. 15)

all her time with her newly born baby, just in time for the holidays and for the family to get together. “It was fun, she’s a very fun baby, very entertaining. Her personality was slowly coming in. She would smile and laugh finally. Around that time my boyfriend came back home. It was the first time meeting the baby and what not. He wasn’t there for the birthing.”

When asked about managing motherhood and school, she shared that “it definitely consists of a lot of work and having support. So the fact that I have support makes everything easier.”

She is worried about not being able to deliver to Nala's needs when she is in school, “the first five months Nala was breastfed. Now she is starting to eat for herself. It’s going to be a struggle finding a babysitter if something goes wrong. If she calls me for a problem I’ll be all the way in Paramus and I won’t be able to help her at that moment.”

She is proud that Nala is such a behaved girl “She’s a good baby. When we go out she is quiet and everyone enjoys her.” Lastly, she is glad that she is keeping a good balance during this semester in Bergen.

Nia’s time with her baby has developed a new sense of meaning to life// Iness Rabah

Fill out an interest form in student life! Or come to SC-111 and inquire

If you answered yes (to me) you should join SAB in fall 2016!
TORCH Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

DOWN

WHERE'S JONES?
By Fred Piscop

[Diagram of a crossword puzzle grid]
The West Indies Makes History

West Indies won their second T20 title on Sunday, April 3 by winning against England with four wickets at Eden Gardens in Kolkata, India. Carlos Brathwaite had tears of joy among his fans when he discerned his win after a tough match. By the last over, Marlon Samuels had made 85 runs off of 66 balls while chasing the target of 156 runs, which England gave and were then left with 19 runs. Carlos Brathwaite then hit four consecutive sixes determining the win for West Indies. The West Indies celebrated their win fully as their song 'Champions' was to be heard out loud in the stadium.

"We had a lot of issues, we felt disrespected by our board. Mark Nicholas described our team as a team with no brains. All these things before the tournament was to be heard out loud in the stadium.

The West Indies Women's team also won their T20 World Cup 2016 final against Australia Women by eight wickets on the same day along with the victory of under 19 Cricket World Cup in February. West Indies makes history by currently, holding the title of the T20 world cup, T20 women's world cup as well of under 19 Cricket World Cup in February. West Indies makes history by currently, holding the title of the T20 world cup, T20 women's world cup as well of under 19 Cricket World Cup in February.

"Sometimes there are hungry nights where I don’t even eat. But I still got to play up to my capabilities,” he said postgame; one could hardly tell if he was a basketball player, or a Hunger Games survivor.

But Emmert would laughably argue that it is sufficient that the NCAA provides their athletes with an education. But let us just pretend they write a remarkable opportunity to get an education through American universities and colleges,” he said on ESPN.

For today, I’m going to celebrate with these 15 men and coaching staff. For March Madness for example. Over $1 billion in TV revenue is made during its 30 day span to ESPN. Much Media. This insane income surpasses the Super Bowl, and it’s not too far from the entire 2015 NFL postseason ad revenue combined. I mean hey, if the hardcore college sports fans tune in to watch these athletic specimens put on a show, those said athletes deserve their share, right?

As the growing empire that is college sports fans tune in to watch these athletic specimens put on a show, those said athletes deserve their share, right? Not if slave-owning head of the NCAA Mark Emmert can help it. “They are not employees, they are student-athletes,” he stated constantly like a broken record during an ESPN interview.

Perhaps the NCAA should reconsider its corrupt ways//Imgur

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Also, coaches getting paid ludicrous contracts while they yell and scream at their players for having off games. Little do they know, while they get revenue from their contracts, sponsored summer camps, and TV deals, the players are managing their schedules, worrying about their mothers paying their bills. Many would then argue, “Well they will all get rich when they become professional.” Less than two percent make it to the pros. If you have dreams of being a viking or wizard, don’t, because you are more likely become an actual viking or wizard. I am not saying they all need to get paid, but when the the student behind the counter selling the jerseys makes more money than the actual athlete the jersey is for, something is wrong.
Argentinian National Soccer Coach at BCC

ALEJANDRO Giraldo  Staff Writer

Martino is a world renowned soccer coach. 18 days prior to being in BCC he was leading Argentina and Messi to a 2-0 win over Bolivia in Argentina. Martino was a professional soccer player who later became a coach. He has coached 11 teams including the Paraguayan national team, Argentinian national team and Barcelona in 2013. He has led world class players in Europe as well as South America such as Sergio Aguero, Angel Dimaria and Lionel Messi. Martino’s team did a great job with their presentation to make it very understandable.

The seminar had an on-field portion both days. For those sessions, the trainer was supplied with a Bergen community college team. The team had both men and women and was asked to perform sessions that they had planned out. This seminar was implemented with help coaches become better with the youth system in America. Many New Jersey youth club teams were represented, as well as a few from Connecticut and New York. There are plenty of coaches here in America that really will put the time and effort to grow the sport. Right now soccer is the quickest growing sport in the U.S.. With this boom in coaches and seminars, the sky’s the limit for U.S. soccer at all levels.

CHRISTOPHER MOLINA  Staff Writer

Looking back at the men and women’s track and field season, a lot has happened. After losing their most trusted assistant coach, Angel Solias, early this year, But many of the athletes looked to rise above the bumps in the road. Three track athletes have qualified for nationals, along with others thus far, those being Thrower Garrett Pynn, Pole Vaulter Camil Calupad, and Tyler Olivieri.

Qualifying for nationals is no easy task, with many athletes in track preparing for this event months in advance. This is what Thrower Garrett Pynn has been doing, who also qualified for two events: shot put and discuss.

“It definitely takes preparation,” said Pynn. “You prepare the whole year for it [and] the whole track season. As for going to nationals, I have high hopes this year. It does make a difference of what you do the whole season. It’s just how you finish the season at nationals matter more.”

First-year Bergen track athlete Tyler Olivieri also qualified for nationals with an impressive show in his first meet. With an extensive track background in high school, this will be his first appearance in nationals. “Just gonna treat it like another meet, can’t get too nervous,” said Olivieri.

Since Assistant coach Solias left before the start of the season, along with troubling weather that had plagued the first half of the season, a lot of the responsibility is on the shoulders of the head coach. “The weather has been horrible, so hopefully this next meet will be warm and not raining,” said head track coach Erika Czujko. Czujko also received plenty of help from cross country coach and former Bergen track athlete, Deana Dedovitch.

“Coach Deanna, the cross country coach, comes back and helps when she can or gives some workouts for the runners,” said Czujko. “We’ve been making due. It has been helping out with that.”
**Baseball Bulldogs Lose Nine Straight**

ADAM GRASSANI
SPORTS EDITOR

Bergen’s Baseball Bulldogs have not had a strong middle half of the season, to say the least. Despite starting the season with an 8-3 record, the team has dropped its last nine straight games. It was unfamiliar territory for Coach Steve Mimms, who has never experienced this kind of losing streak before.

“It’s tough,” Coach Mimms said. “First time in my career that this has ever happened. I’ve never had a losing streak this long ever. So it’s one of those things where you’ve got to bear it out as a team.”

One aspect of the Bulldogs’ game that has been a struggle is the bats. Last season when the Bulldogs finished 22-14, they finished fourth in the nation in batting average with .360. As of writing, the Bulldogs are hitting .296, which is only good enough for 37th in the nation. Shortstop Junior Nasi has been the team’s biggest offensive threat, hitting .363 as well as stealing a total of 16 bases. Pitching wise, the team’s ERA is currently 4.71, a slight improvement over the team’s 4.81 average last season.

“Right now I think it’s just both sides of the baseball,” said Mimms. “Not throwing strikes. Not making routine plays. Our bats can get hot, then cool off midway through the game. So once we get clicking, it’ll come together.”

While the entire losing streak of the team has been tough, the lowest point came at the April 14 home game against Middlesex County. Bergen got off to a hot start, scoring four runs in the bottom of the second. However, it would all go downhill from there. Middlesex County scored nine runs in the next five innings to give themselves a 9-5 lead. Controversy arose when Bergen shortstop Junior Nasi attempted to steal second for his 17th of the season. It looked to many that he was safe, but the umpire called him out.

“Tough call you know,” said Mimms on the call. “Right now umpire’s make the call. We’ve gotta go with the discretion. I thought he had a base stolen. Sometimes calls don’t go your way. Sometimes the ball beats you there and the umpires quick call that. It’s baseball. Sometimes you win some calls. Sometimes you lose some calls, and we were on the short end of the stick on that one.”

Things got especially ugly in the top of the eighth. Middlesex County scored a total of 11 runs in the inning alone, including a grand slam, going on to win by a whopping score of 20-5, handing Bergen their eighth straight loss. Mimms talked to the team after the game for a significant amount of time, sending a strong message to his players.

“It was very clear to these guys,” Mimms said. “They know what’s going on. And it’s kind of one of those messages that you tell them ‘Listen. We gotta get better. We’re not playing good baseball right now. We’re just not a good baseball team right now. We’re a good group of guys. We’re athletic. We’re just not playing good baseball.’

So the clear message was we gotta work hard and get over this. We gotta stay confident. We want our guys to stay positive. This is a tough time so we gotta just go back out there and have fun and keep grinding. Let’s do more than we usually do. Our goal is trying to get that one. Once we break this streak here, we’ll be fine. That’s the mindset we have. Let’s just get that one.”

Thankfully, the Baseball Bulldogs were able to get back on the winning track with a 5-3 win against Lehigh Carbon, sparking a five game winning streak for the team. They finished their season with a 17-19 record.

**MMA is now NYC Bound**

Guess what, mixed martial art fans? The MMA will soon have its opportunity to finally be available in all 50 states, finally cementing and legitimizing the sport, as it will be making its way to New York. On April 4, 2016, the New York senate passed a bill to legalize professional mixed martial arts, the last state in which the sport was illegal. The Senate voted 48-14, approving an MMA bill for the seventh consecutive year. The bill will now go to the State Assembly, which has never voted on legislation. Governor Andrew Cuomo asked lawmakers to legalize the sport for the first time.

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