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THE BROOKLYN COLLEGE

VANGUARD

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PHOTO CREDIT: Paola Sacerdote



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Baruch Appoints New President: First Asian-American Prez Across CUNY

By Milette Millington
Staff Writer

Mr. S. David Wu will be the new president of Baruch College starting on July 1 of this year, after he was unanimously approved for the position at the meeting held by the CUNY Board of Trustees on February 3rd. He will take over from Mitchel B. Wallerstein, who will step down in May after commencement.

Mr. Wu is currently wrapping up his position as Provost and Executive Vice President of George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia.

The university had over 37,000 students enrolled and over 2,000 staff in academics and administration (2018-2019).

In a video message sent to Baruch students last week, Wu said that as Provost at GMU, he had focused much of his attention on “realizing the vision for access to excellence.” For over a decade, Wu served as both Dean of the Rossin College of Engineering and the Lee A. Iacocca Chair at Lehigh University.

“Baruch is one of the most impressive and compelling institutions I have encountered



S. David Wu, incoming Baruch president. / CUNY.edu

in the 33 years of my academic career. Not only does it serve as an agent for social mobility,

Baruch is also one of the most selective highest quality institutions in the nation,” he said.

Stanley Cohen, BC Grad and Nobel Laureate, Dies at 97

By Nasra Abdalla
Khamis
Staff Writer

Stanley Cohen, a Brooklyn College alumnus turned Nobelist, died on Feb. 5, 2020 in Nashville, Tennessee.

Cohen was born in Brooklyn, New York, on Nov. 17, 1922. He was the son of a homemaker and a tailor. Both of his parents were Jewish immigrants from Russia

who taught him the values of intellectual achievement. Cohen was a polio survivor.

Cohen attended Brooklyn College from 1939 to 1943. He double majored in biology and chemistry, earning his B.A. in 1943. After he graduated, he worked at a milk plant. Cohen also applied to a Master’s program at Oberlin College, where he graduated with an M.A. in zoology

in 1945. In 1948, he earned his doctorate in biochemistry at the University of Michigan. In 1956, Cohen joined the Vanderbilt faculty as an assistant professor of biochemistry.

In 1986, Cohen (alongside Rita Levi-Montalcini) won a Nobel Prize for discovering the epidermal growth factor and its receptor. He is one of only thirteen CUNY graduates to win the Nobel Prize, and the

only one of the bunch to attend Brooklyn College.

Cohen also won the Albert Lasker Basic Medical Research Award and the President’s National Medal of Science. He was inducted into the Tennessee Healthcare Hall of Fame in 2016.

Cohen left behind his wife, Jan Jordan, as well as three children, and two granddaughters. He was 97.

CORRECTIONS

In both issues one and two, we stated Hailey Lam was arrested by police while protesting the CUNY Board of Trustees last December. This is incorrect. Lam was detained by campus security but not arrested. She was, however, threatened with arrest.

In our first issue of the semester in our story about the Martin Luther King Jr. sculpture and its created Bo Walker, we misidentified his wife Barbara Walker as Jocelyn Walker. Also, Rinaldo Jackson should be Rinaldo Cox, and W.E Jackson was Bo Jackson’s Grandfather, not Great Uncle. Finally, Jackson called his daughter his “Greatest” masterpiece, not his “Newest.”

If you spot an error in one of our articles, please e-mail us at thebcvanguard@gmail.com.

LaGuardia Reading Room Temporarily Closed

By Natalina Zieman
News Editor

The most popular room in the Brooklyn College library was inaccessible to students on Tuesday, Feb. 4, because of a section in the new union contract that mandates adjuncts hold office hours for students.

The LaGuardia Reading Room on the second floor of the college library is a popular hangout spot for students on campus, on account of its size and quietness. Many students were vocal about the demand for the reading room to reopen for students, after a sign was posted on the door that stated “LaGuardia Reading Room reserved for Spring 2020 adjunct office hours only,” which led the students to believe that the reading room was closed indefinitely.

So why was it closed that day? The new PSC/CUNY contract ratified last fall mandates that “every adjunct (and full-timer on overload) who teaches a course of three contact hours or more will be responsible for and paid at their full hourly rate for formal office hours... and

it guarantees and expands students’ access to their instructors outside of class.”

It is argued that the BC campus has limited office space, and this new city contract threw adjuncts and other faculty for a loop after it took effect immediately. The Provost Office, located in Boylan Hall, made the decision to reserve the LaGuardia Reading Room for the adjuncts. “We reserved the LaGuardia Reading Room because we were working on a space issue, and had underestimated student interest in using that specific room on particular days,” explained Anne Lopes, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs. “We were able to resolve the space issue much more quickly than we had originally anticipated, and we appreciated hearing from students about their needs with regard to their use of the space. I apologize for any confusion in our messaging about it.”

Student interest in the reading room was immediately taken into consideration after it was brought to the attention



The sign posted on the reading room door. / Lauren Stimola

of the Provost Office, that the students became upset about it becoming inaccessible. “They just closed the reading room off, saying it was for adjunct use because the city is requiring adjuncts to have office hours, but that’s just hearsay,” commented a student who asked to remain anonymous. “I believed it was a convenient solution for the library since the library staff hates how all the library rules are broken in that reading room.”

Although the reading

room is the library’s largest and most popular room, the library staff refused to comment on the situation.

Another student, Shay who asked to keep their last name out of print, commented on the inconvenience as well: “I heard that it was going to be closed for the whole semester. It seemed typical for them to close the most populated room on campus to shut down for surplus room. Though adjuncts do deserve a space, there must be a better space.”

According to James Davis,

PSC representative for BC, another space was found almost immediately, and the adjuncts moved their “offices” to Boylan Hall.

“Many departments have office space for adjunct faculty, so very little has changed for them,” said Davis. “For the departments that don’t have sufficient space the College has provided a large room in the Boylan Hall basement, the Georgian Room, for adjunct faculty from any department to hold office hours.”

Admin Addresses Student Advisement, Transfer Students

By Maya Schubert
Staff Writer

On Thursday, Feb. 6, the council of administrative policy and the college personnel and budget committee gathered in SUBO’s Gold Room to discuss policy and updated enrollment data at Brooklyn College.

President Michelle Anderson opened the meeting by introducing a goal of increased and clarified advisement for students, announcing the administration’s plan to update Brooklyn College’s website to make contact information for advisors and department chairpersons clearer and easier to find. She mentioned enhanced

advisement for transfer students in particular.

“We have a lot of room to grow,” Anderson said about the transfer program.

The topic of transfer students was a popular one, surfacing again when Anderson brought up systematic errors in the application of transfer credits.

“We are going to deliberate on some of that data,” said Anderson.

According to Lillian O’Reilly, the Vice President for Enrollment Management and Retention, transfer enrollments for the Spring semester have been flat, 1,013 incoming transfer students falling a little short of the

administration’s targeted 1200.

Transfer applications for fall of 2020 hang at about 3,800, an 18 percent decline from last year. BC’s lagging enrollment for transfers reflects a CUNY-wide average, however.

“The only college really doing well in transfer students right now is Baruch,” O’Reilly said.

Between freshman and graduate students, however, the college’s enrollment for the spring semester swelled slightly in comparison to 2019, and freshman applications for the fall are currently at an estimated 4 percent increase, according to O’Reilly.

O’Reilly moved the discussion from enrollment data to waitlist applications, passing out a plan to committee members for updating information on BC’s website to include clearer application steps and tutorials on navigating waitlists. The communication plan, O’Reilly said, “explains... the process, and what communication goes out when, and what people in the registrar’s office are responsible for the various stages of the waitlist.”

The committee deviated from waitlisted applications to discuss class waitlists. Administrators expressed endeavors to

create a broader formula for handling them, while faculty members hoped to send senior students to the tops of the waitlists. As the committee debated, several faculty members made a point to praise the hard work of the administrators, creating a communal atmosphere for the discussion. President Anderson cited their good will as the largest factor in instigating positive change.

“It makes someone’s week,” she said.

She also promoted contribution and discussion of all ideas in moving forward with goals for the college.

Gov. Cuomo Unveils 2021 State Budget

More Money for CUNY... With Some Snags

By John Schilling
Staff Writer

Governor Andrew Cuomo started the year off with a bang on January 21st, unveiling his outline of the Fiscal Year 2021 Executive Budget. The plan, which is valued at \$275 billion, is designed to tackle many issues that exist in New York politics, such as homelessness, mental health, public health, and infrastructure funding.

In terms of the funding aimed at benefiting higher education, Cuomo's plan specifically mentions CUNY/SUNY schools and "expanding access to a quality and affordable college education."

According to the budget, the funding for higher education has increased from \$6.0 billion to \$7.8 billion with \$1.3 billion going towards "strategic programs to make college more affordable and encourage the best and brightest students to build their future in New York."

The budget sets out to expand the eligibility threshold of the Excelsior Scholarship, which provides students below a certain income with free tuition. Among other requirements, the scholarship currently requires students' gross family income to be \$125,000 or less to receive the scholarship, but Cuomo's new budget plan would raise it to \$150,000.

Despite this change, the Excelsior Scholarship remains the subject of criticism with claims that it does not help low-income students and barely helps CUNY students at all.

According to the New York State Higher Education Services



Cuomo announces his budget plan. / Paul Buckowski

Corporation, the Excelsior Scholarship was awarded to 24,000 students in its second year, making up only 3.8 percent of total SUNY and CUNY undergraduate enrollment. "That's extremely low," said Corrinne Greene, a student activist at Brooklyn College. "I think that raising the income cap is fine, but that should not absolve the Governor from criticisms of the program. It's a bandaid on something that requires surgery."

To much dismay, the Excelsior Scholarship mandates that recipients be enrolled in at least 12 credits per semester and complete 30 credits each year. The program also does not cover the costs of books, housing, transportation, and food which are all common sources of student loan debt.

"A program like Excelsior is necessary,

but it would be a better use of time and resources to create an interest free loan program with no requirements," Greene continued. "I would love the opportunity to apply for that loan!"

In addition to Excelsior, the budget also includes \$400 million to go towards Cuomo's "2:1 strategic needs capital matching program," which is designed "to support new construction and/or major renovations of academic buildings at SUNY state-operated and statutory colleges and CUNY senior colleges." This program, however, would require CUNY/SUNY campuses to contribute one dollar for every two dollars invested by the state into construction costs.

"Students know how important capital investment is for their safety, health, and education. However, the 2:1 Strategic Needs

Capital Matching Program seems to benefit schools that already have more access to wealth while leaving other schools behind," said Jonathan Gaffney, the project coordinator for New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG). "NYPIRG advocates for a free and fully funded CUNY, and as far as the 2:1 matching proposal is concerned, NYPIRG wants to see all CUNY and SUNY capital programs robustly funded, regardless of the school's ability to fundraise private dollars."

While NYPIRG feels wary regarding the budget's proposal, CUNY officials remain optimistic about the budget as a whole. "We applaud the increased investment in CUNY's operations and the continued commitment to the University's critical capital needs reflected in Governor Cuomo's

budget," said CUNY Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez. "Governor Cuomo's budget will enable CUNY to continue forward with its ambitious infrastructure investment, the fruits of which can be seen in the cutting-edge Tow Center for Performing Arts on the campus of Brooklyn College."

Despite Rodríguez's optimism, Greene remains doubtful that the budget's changes will benefit students of higher education.

"When the Excelsior Program was announced, I was very relieved, but I haven't benefited from it at all. And there are so many students like me," Greene said. "I don't want to see the Governor say that we have a progressive agenda and then not talk about higher education. This should be such a high priority issue."

Meet John Wasserman, Bklyn Dem Influencer

Brooklyn Young Democrats President on His Stutter and His Activism

By Chaya Gurkov
Staff Writer

“It’s been a blessing and a curse, but I am grateful for it,” John Wasserman said clearly, the heavy stutter that frequently weighs down his speech nowhere to be heard. Diagnosed with a speech impediment at the early age of five, the 26-year-old president of the Brooklyn Young Democrats stood proudly before an applauding room as he accepted his award for Young Democrat of the Year. His triumphant stance made clear to those watching that here was a man not willing to be bogged down by self-victimization and circumstance.

The Brooklyn Young Democrats (BYD), a club that’s been gaining prominence within the borough, hosted a kick-off event on Tuesday, Jan. 28, and the room quickly filled with familiar faces. Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams came and had a representative speak on his behalf. Councilwoman Farah Louis, whom the BYD helped get elected, also showed up to support the honorees.

The room was alight with energy and joy for the individuals who were being honored. When accepting his award, Wasserman acknowledged his gratitude for the support that made his journey possible, making sure to explicitly thank his onlooking parents for their understanding and encouragement. The proud expressions they wore on their faces were hard to miss.

Later in the week, in a one-on-one at the Pearl Diner in Manhattan (his favorite home-

style diner), the puzzle of Wasserman’s life started coming together, as he spoke about the challenges he faced with his impediment and the desire to be something more.

“In high school, my stutter became increasingly worse. My social anxiety and depression because of it really impacted me and I became reclusive. I didn’t want to raise my hand, I couldn’t participate in class, I was so embarrassed of myself,” Wasserman said.

Common misconceptions that stutterers are “slower” than so-called “normal people,” or just too anxious to get a word out, results in a toxic battle of self-shaming for those who suffer from it. To overcome that shame and grow comfortable in your differences takes a tremendous amount of fortitude.

For Wasserman, this self-acceptance came when he transferred from Wheaton University to Brooklyn College.

“I had a realization then that, yes, it takes a lot of courage, and I still have anxiety about it to this day, but it’s something that will be with me everyday,” Wasserman said. “It’s something I can use as a tool to relate to people with.”

By joining political organizations on campus, Wasserman slowly started finding the voice his stutter tried to quell. As president of the Brooklyn College Democrats in 2015, he started a petition and movement to bring Bernie Sanders back to Brooklyn College, and made his club the first organization in BC to formally endorse the potential presidential candidate. He became



John Wasserman. / Brooklyn Young Democrats

a fellow on campus for the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG), where he was required to speak to filled classrooms to try and get students more involved.

“I got up there and stuttered and I told everyone, ‘look at me, I stutter but I am using my voice, and so can they.’”

His tenacity didn’t go unnoticed, and at one event he was approached with an offer to start working in the city’s Public Engagement initiative for helping tenants on the ground. After deciding it would do him better to take a break from college to start helping people struggling with the housing crisis, Wasserman was assigned to the East Harlem-Inwood area. There, he was saddened to see landlords wrongfully evicting tenants from their homes so they could destabilize the rent.

“I saw a ton of that,” Wasserman said. “I would visit the tenant one week and build a relationship with them, only to come back some months later and see workers painting the apartment, redoing the floors, adding new

appliances...”

This experience shaped him, cementing within him a passion to continue helping people in his community. After finishing his college degree with honors, Wasserman continued with his political career by becoming campaign manager for District Leader Doug Schneider (Park Slope, Windsor Terrace, Kensington, Borough Park, Victorian Flatbush, Ditmas Park, Midwood), winning the race with a huge voter turnout. Going on to help get Civil Court Judge Caroline Cohen elected, Wasserman believes he’s found the common thread to how to touch people.

“You have to pull out their stories, their experiences which shapes who they are and why they care about something. Young people nowadays are looking for realness and authenticity, and when you share your story, it humanizes you and makes people comfortable with who you are,” Wasserman said. “That is why I talk about my stuttering, because I know by letting

your guard down and becoming vulnerable, that’s when people can relate to you.”

In the Pearl Diner, the waiter came by the booth to ask us how things were going. Wasserman responded that all was well. He stuttered though, and the waiter, clearly not expecting this, regarded him with aggravation. John seemed not to notice, or make any mention of it, and the interview continued from where it left off. But this minor instance seemed to stand out after all that was said. Occurrences like these are probably not uncommon when someone has a noticeable difference, and hard to forget, even for an onlooker. But with bigger things to focus on, and the self-acceptance needed to do so, comes the realization that your potential cannot be held down by others, or by yourself.

“For many people they wake up everyday and they’re just trying to get by,” Wasserman said. “For me, I always knew I wanted to do something more. The story of me isn’t over.”

English Dept. Holds Valentine's Writing Event

By Kendra Martinez
Staff Writer

Self-love is just as important as showing love to one another. On Thursday, Feb. 13, students in BC's English department gathered together to push this message over treats and music to one of their favorite hobbies: writing! Music was playing aloud as the students were talking to one another, others were eating, and also writing. The room was beautifully decorated with heart-shaped balloons, tabletop decorations and Valentine's Day-themed candy.

The writing prompts that were provided by organizers were to either write a poem to yourself or to describe your best or worst experience. During this time, students were engaged in their headspace. Students varied across the English Department, including some in their third year and others in their last year at Brooklyn College. A few students read their



The Writer's Circle toss (non-circular) balloons into the air. / Kendra Martinez

poems to themselves aloud. They mentioned that it was a challenge to "be nice" to themselves through the expression of this writing. This prompt enabled the students to connect to themselves in a more intimate way.

"I don't write about myself often. When I write about myself, it's kind of difficult because it's so broad. I don't have a specific focus that I want to write about," said Senior Jordan Spence who majors in English in

secondary education.

Regardless of how people felt on the holiday most synonymous with love and human connection, writing is the thing that was able to bring everyone there together.

"I'm happy that we have the party side but also we did the free writing and the sharing and people were able to write out their feelings about whatever they're feeling," said Quentin Felton, a senior English major who's part of the Writer's Circle. "I think it's just a great way just to connect."

The event started at 12:30 PM and ended at 1:45 in Boylan Hall. The Writer's Circle is a program through the English department that joins every Thursday to allow the opportunity for students to write in a space and connect with peers. They are currently taking submissions for "The Junction," a literary arts magazine.



Snacks, hearts, and literary magazines at the English Dept. Valentine's Event. / Kendra Martinez



The Women’s Center Says: “Nothing Says I Love You Like A Healthy Relationship”

By Stacy Fisch
Staff Writer

February is back, and we all know what that means: it is, or rather was, Valentine’s Day! In honor of the special love day among sweethearts, on Thursday, Feb. 13, the Women’s Center and non-profit service agency, CAMBA, a NY non-profit organization that provides resources and support to children and adults, held a workshop for BC students to recognize the traits and characteristics of a healthy relationship. CAMBA members Dulcie Delfonce, and assistant Lizzy Lerner assisted in the workshop to acquaint students with what to search for in a relationship and what to avoid, such as early signs of abuse.

Inspired by interactive games, Heads’ Up and Taboo, Delfonce and Lerner played a team-based game with BC students. Relationship adjectives - words ranging from “fun” to “jealousy” - were written on small white index cards and placed on top of a student’s head. Each student took charge of conveying a given word in their own way, as well as discovering if it

belongs in a relationship. “We might not realize toxic behavior,” says Delfonce. The motive of the game was to help students explore the qualities in a relationship with real-life examples without feeling uncomfortable.

Delfonce and Lerner brought their experience from a program called “Enough is Enough,” which is one of the several programs available at CAMBA. “Enough is Enough” (aka Article 129B) is a law that Governor Cuomo passed which launched a statewide campaign that, according to Delfonce, “encompasses sexual assault on college campuses and the aspect of a uniform definition of consent on college campuses to ensure that people are safe.”

Students around New York State campuses sometimes share stories of what they experienced with abuse. Jessica Perez, a BC student and mother of one, was a victim of domestic violence for almost 20 years. She shared that she felt like a bottle overflowing with water ready to burst. “I’ve had enough,” Perez said as she reflected on what “Enough is Enough” meant for her.

The Women's Center, The Women's History Month Committee, and The Exchange invite you to attend:

Is it Love?

How to Form and Recognize Healthy Relationships
W/Dulcie Delfonce, CAMBA

Thursday February 13
12:30-2:15pm
227 New Ingersoll
refreshments will be served

IN THIS INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP YOU WILL:

- Discuss traits, characteristics and behaviors that make a healthy relationship without compromising boundaries
- Analyze affirmative consent and the ways consent can bring fulfilling pleasure into your healthy relationships

Dulcie Delfonce joined CAMBA's Violence Prevention and Intervention Services team in 2016 as an advocate then transitioned into the role as the Enough is Enough Health Educator. She currently facilitates workshops on issues regarding intimate partner violence, sexual assault, bystander intervention, affirmative consent and gender-based violence to the college and university communities in Brooklyn.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/womenscenter.atbrooklyncollege/>
Instagram: @bcwomenscenter

Logos for WOC and CAMBA (where you can).

Delfonce and Lerner explained the seven types of abuse and how they weren’t exclusively physical, but could also be neglect or even financial. Unfortunately, some forms are so invisible, victims are unaware they are in an unhealthy

relationship. The point of this campaign is to provide awareness and to inform people of all genders who are either in a relationship or want to be in one about the early signs of domestic violence.

The Women’s Center, which hosted the event, offers different services for testing and protection for safe sex. For Women’s History Month, the Women’s Center will be holding an event in the Student Center on March 10 called “Drop The Mic” featuring Kai Davis – performance, poet and more.

If you or a loved one is in a toxic relationship and/or is a victim of sexual and domestic violence, there are resources. You can call

the New York Domestic and Sexual Abuse hotline at 1-800-942-6906. (or, if you’re deaf or hard of hearing, at 1-800-621-HOPE (4673)). If you want to speak to someone in person, visit the on-campus Women’s Center in 227 Ingersoll Extension, and they will assist you in any way that benefits you. If you are scared to speak to someone about it verbally, visit CAMBA’s main website at <https://CAMBA.org> for more information.



ADVERTISEMENT

GRADUATING? 2020

Senior Portraits will be held on campus:
Monday, February 24th – Friday, February 28th
Monday, March 9th – Thursday, March 12th, 2020

0400 Boylan Hall – Former Bookstore
10 am – 2 pm & 3 pm – 7 pm

The sitting is free & you can view your proofs online.
Please dress as you would for a job interview.
Cap & gown will be provided by the photographer.

Schedule your portrait appointment today:
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or see the photographer’s assistant

Brooklyn College

Kicking Off Black History Month with Poise

By Makeet Finch
Staff Writer

On Thursday, Feb. 6, students and faculty were joined together at the Performing Arts Center, vocalizing why they celebrate Black History Month.

The celebration kicked off with a breathtaking performance from Assistant Professor Malcolm Merriweather and students from the Brooklyn College Conservatory of Music. The procession walked down a spiral staircase dressed in all black, as they performed “Steal Away” and “Lift Every Voice and Sing.”

Dr. Ronald Jackson, Vice President of Student Affairs, followed up the performance with a speech recalling a time when he was racially profiled just after moving to New York City. He and a few friends of his had been hauled off after being accused of selling drugs.

“What the police did not know was that

they were carrying off to jail a group of black men who had multiple degrees, a principal actor in *The Lion King*, and an Ivy Leaguer who was beginning a MBA at Columbia University who fought back and won a legal case against the NYPD,” said Dr. Jackson.

He recollected on major goals in his life, as well as African Americans from the past that made history.

“I recently saw the movie *Harriet* and marveled at her determination to free slaves. I thought back on the impact Kobe’s death had, not just sports fans but others as well,” Dr. Jackson said. “I thought about the history that was made in 2019 when for the first time Miss USA, Miss America, Miss Teen USA, Miss Universe, and Miss World were all black women.”

Towards the end of his speech, he encouraged every black individual to stand on their feet and give themselves a pat on the back.



A choir, led by Malcolm Merriweather, sing “Lift Every Voice and Sing.” / Makeet Finch

“I thought about the students who worked diligently to put on Black Solidarity Day here at the college and I also thought about all the trials and tribulations that got me where I am today and I realized black people are amazing and there’s no reason to be ashamed or apologize for it,” said Dr. Jackson. “So for no other reason we should celebrate black history as a time to reflect on the past, appreciate the present and be energized, about the possibility of the future.”

Jackson was one of many BC faculty and administrators who spoke at the event. He was joined by Associate Director Tunji Fussell, college president Michelle Anderson, Chair of Africana Studies Prudence Cumberbatch, Director of the Wolfe Institute Rosamond King, and Chief Diversity Officer Anthony Brown.

Undergraduate Student Government (USG) Vice President Jessica Johnson took the stage and recalled her experience as a new student at Brooklyn College, attending numerous black history programs in her first semester.

“I did not expect that when I came here,” Johnson said of the college’s many courses on black experiences. “I was fortunate enough to come in and say ‘Wow, I can be a black woman in this space and not worry

about how I wear my hair, how I dress, how I speak,” said Johnson.

Johnson spoke of the many events students would be attending this February to celebrate Black History Month. These events included visiting the African American Museum in Washington DC, holding a dinner where black professionals would come and speak to students on February 18th, fashion shows and panelists coming in to speak to students, and The National Black Accountants Association holding a diversity fair with PWC.

“That is how we celebrate Black History Month,” said Johnson.

In addition to speeches and musical performances, students showcased their art on stands and pedestals around the space for guests to see.

Robert Beauvais honored his ancestors from Haiti with a painting of Toussaint Louverture, who defeated the French, leading Haiti to become the first nation to rebel against slavery and succeed.

“This is an honor for me because I can use this to talk about Haitian history,” said Beauvais. “Haitians are misinterpreted. People are reminded about the negatives like poverty and self-corruption, but it’s more than that. It’s a rich culture, a beautiful

history, and much more.”

Bianca Bailey, a fine arts major at Brooklyn College, painted two paintings of African American women. According to her, Western art has never been inclusive for people of African descent, so being recognized “is a revolution.”

“My art is centering around black people and minority people, specifically today for black people, not just because of what this month means, but because of the community I’m a part of,” said Bailey, proudly posing by her artwork. “So my art focuses on black women, I’m showing them in a glorified light.”

BFA student Abigail Akindude created two sculptures. On the left, she created an ovary, which symbolized issues black women have with their reproductive health. On the right was a self-portrait bust, which focused on mental health and anxiety.

“This is a great way to see other people in my community and to celebrate blackness,” said Akindude.

Violinist Devon Webster, a graduate of Brooklyn College, thrilled guests as he performed “A Change is Gonna Come” by Sam Cooke. Webster left students with this message. “It’s ok to be different, just be you, whatever that looks like.”



Toussaint Louverture, by Robert Beauvais. / Makeet Finch

Former BC Prof Sami Khan Nominated for Oscar

By Ryan Schwach
Managing Editor

When this year's nominees for the Academy Awards were announced, a former member of the Brooklyn College family was among them.

Sami Khan, a former professor in the film department, was nominated for co-directing "St. Louis Superman," in the short subject documentary category.

The film follows the story of Bruce Franks Jr., an activist and battle rapper who was elected to the Missouri state legislature following the killing of Michael Brown in Ferguson by a police officer in 2014.

"We jumped at the chance to tell this story," said Khan, who taught Intro to Production for a year and half at Brooklyn College.

Khan and his production partner Smriti Mundhra were commissioned to do a short documentary regarding the 2018 election cycle by AJ+ Witness, a part of Al Jazeera's English-language network. Mundhra read about Franks' story and showed it to Khan, and they knew it was what they wanted to chase, not just because of its political value, but the depth of his personal story.

"The politics are an important thing with Bruce, but not the whole thing," said Khan.

Frank's fight against gun violence (which serves as a backdrop for the film) is also a personal



Sami Khan (far right) once taught Intro to Production here at BC; now he's on the red carpet. / IF Press

one. As a child, while playing baseball in the street, Franks' nine-year-old older brother, Chris, was shot and killed after two men began arguing and both pulled firearms. Franks' brother was picked up and used as a human shield by one of the men. "He's almost like a superhero, with this tragedy," said Khan, alluding to the great comic heroes who overcame traumas and used them as inspiration to fight for a greater good.

Although Franks hesitated at first, eventually he opened the door for the filmmakers, granting them access into his life. The two followed him as he worked to get a bill through the state legislature naming gun violence a public health epidemic, and to institute

a holiday in his big brother's name, all while raising young children.

Khan shot most of the film himself along with Christopher Renteria, following Franks around with a very small, intimate setup, as Khan describes it. "That's one of the strengths of the film," he said. At one point in the film, Franks sits with his soon-to-be five-year-old son on a doorstep, singing a song and discussing his son's upcoming birthday. All the while, Khan sits not four feet away with his camera. Later, Franks told Khan he had no idea he was even there filming.

"That's the best filmmaking compliment," said Khan.

In early January of this year, along with filmmakers from across

the world, Khan was nominated alongside Mundhra in the short documentary category in the 92nd Academy Awards. "We were on our couch, it was just a normal Monday I think," Khan said when his name was announced. "I think I just blacked out, nothing really prepares you for it."

Although "St. Louis Superman" lost out to "Learning to Skateboard in a Warzone (if you're a girl)," it is unlikely Khan will ever forget the experience.

"Nothing prepares you from sitting across a table from Brad Pitt [...] and having people like Mark Ruffalo and Judd Apatow come up and tell you they are fans of your film," he said.

A few years ago, after Khan found out about

the job at BC from a friend, he taught for a year and half here, assisting many students with the production of their first films in Intro to Production. "I loved teaching that class," he said. Although he admits he does not miss his commute from Inwood to Midwood, he misses his interactions with BC's student body. "I miss the energy and passion students have for filmmaking," he said. "Not enough filmmakers have that passion and curiosity for life," he said.

Going forward, Khan is continuing to work on new projects. A feature length documentary "The Last Out," about immigrant baseball players, will be coming out sometime this spring.

"Nothing prepares you from sitting across a table from Brad Pitt and having people like Mark Ruffalo and Judd Apatow come up and tell you they are fans of your film."

- Sami Khan, Oscar-nominated BC film professor

Psychology Club Holds First Meeting of Semester



The first rule of Psych Club, is everyone talks about Psych Club. / Paola Sacerdote

By Paola Sacerdote
Staff Writer

The Brooklyn College Psychology Club held their first meeting of the semester, an invitation not just for psych majors but for all students interested in the field of psychology.

President Mahfuza Sabiha spoke of the club's upcoming events and the methods they have to assist their members through their academic path.

More students attended than expected. The club provided refreshments for the students, as well as the opportunity for them to suggest ideas for the club.

"This meeting was really important for us because we couldn't

have any meetings last semester, we were having troubles with getting the club restarted after the change of government," said President Mahfuza Sabiha. "I don't think anyone from the past members came again but just a way for them to get to know us, get to know them to make sure that we can actually have communication between our members and e-board and figure out what kind of events we want to have in the future, as well as propose the events we are planning for them."

The Psychology department is one of the biggest on campus, but the Psychology Club isn't as well-established. The club had a shaky start, restarting in 2013

as a medium for students to network and receive communication from the e-board.

The club now aims to provide assistance for students to learn about the psychology-related resources available on campus, such as career opportunities, research programs, classes, and general advice for students seeking a job in the field. The club sometimes hosts events in conjunction with other clubs, or invites guest speakers.

"We want to make sure that these students are able to successfully get through their career," said Sabiha, "as well as figure out how they can make the most of their major, while at the same time meeting other

students."

Students engaged with the meeting, providing ideas and expressing their reaction to the experience.

"I like that they are very collaborative," said Valerie, a psych major. "I think that is a really nice way to bring people in and to be more inclusive of everyone, especially new members."

"I really like the energy," said Sarah, another psych major. "They're very into us all being friends and connected, and I think that is really important in a club environment."

The club aspires to hold weekly meetings as they collaborate with their members to build a stronger club, something they haven't done outside the e-board.

The club's next meeting will be a movie night in March. They plan to host other events through the semester, and will collaborate with the Magner Career Center for one of their biggest events of the semester.

"One of the reasons why [the psychology major is] so popular at Brooklyn College is because it encompasses so many careers...There are just so many paths that someone in psychology can go into," said Sabiha. "Psychology majors and people who are interested in psychology develop a knowledge and an interest that makes them very well-rounded and able to understand people so much more."

"People who are interested in psychology develop a knowledge and an interest that makes them very well-rounded and able to understand people so much more."

- Mahfuza Sabiha, Office

Artists Who Teach: Tahir Carl Karmali

By Jack Coleman
Arts Editor

Originally from Kenya, Tahir Carl Karmali is now based in Brooklyn and teaches at Brooklyn College. He works in a number of different mediums and disciplines including sculpture, photography, video, and sound. His body of work investigates the often harrowing socioeconomic and political origins of material, while offering viewers an engaging and powerful aesthetic experience. We met at his studio to discuss his work, the nebulous distinction between design and art, and what teaching means to him.

JC: What did you study in undergraduate?

TCK: My undergraduate degrees are in hospitality, marketing, and econ. It was mostly focused on marketing, what was interesting about the marketing degree was that there was a focus on marketing intangibility. For example, a hotel can tell you what it looks like and about the size and space, but it selling it mostly hinges on the service and experience. So some of that stuck—the idea of communicating something intangible to people and using that language or trying to figure out the narrative of something quite hard to grasp. I think something that is very difficult to grasp is our complicated and implicit nature of how we perform in this economy. That's what I think about when making work: "how am I communicating something that is intangible, and putting that idea into an tangible object?"

JC: I think that your Paradise works [a series of photographs screenprinted onto canvases] relay that in a really poetic way.

TCK: It does feel like that. People always tell me that those pieces look like the feeling of a memory or dream. It's interesting because you're looking at my memories,

but you're also looking at photographs. These photographs were taken in my mother's native country of Seychelles, so there is a literal representation. With the fabric, dye, and the fact that a lot of the detail and color of the photographs are removed and replaced with halftones—the closer you get to it, the more abstract it is; The further away you are from it you are, the more you understand it. And that plays around with how one might think of dreams and memories—the harder you try to get closer to a dream, the more it fades away. I created Paradise as one of those in between projects, which usually happens when I need a break from the rest of my work which is very focused on socioeconomic and political issues.

JC: Do you show your students your work?

TCK: I'll show it to them if my work is relevant or when it makes sense within the class. Certainly when it comes to diagrams and sketching out sculptures. Lotus, for example, comes entirely from diagrams. From sketches in my notebook to software on the computer, then its reinterpreted into a three dimensional work. That's basic 3-D design. So I'll go into the process behind making Lotus, but I might not go in depth about the concept. I also talk a lot about ready-made and assemblage in regard to sculpture within the context of my work as well. So I only really talk about my work when it's necessary, or maybe if I'm showing in the city. I sometimes have a fear of showing my work to my students (laughs). Maybe I'll show them when the semester is almost over and they understand my temperament. I think because our in-class discussions can get really crazy.

One of my jobs in teaching 3-D design is to get my students to understand that the craft of making does not qualify something as being an artwork or a design work. Also, that if



Tahir Karmali, multimedia artist and BC instructor. / courtesy of the artist

something takes a long time to make it's more valuable than something that takes a shorter time to make. I want them to value not just the craft and duration of making but also the craft and duration of coming up with ideas. I also stress recontextualization and decontextualization of materials through design and craft. All of these things take time.

JC: I've heard that you give your students workbooks that they're supposed to turn in at the end of the semester. What's that for?

TCK: Yes, there's a workbook. You have to sketch out and draw your ideas for sculpture. You can't really just go to a fabricator with an idea, you need to have something drawn out, period! I expect my students to do a lot of research in order to understand where their ideas are coming from. 3-D design is learning how to think like a designer. You can draw ideas and come up with ideas by just feeling or playing with the material, but you gotta start by drawing it all out.

I also need to see that what they're working on isn't just happening in the last two weeks of the semester—I can always tell if someone has spent the minimum amount of time on their project. So, there's the workbook and then

three papers that I make them write throughout the semester. All of these exercises are to push them to think critically about design because, you know, what's the point of taking my class and then going to Sculpture 1? There has to be a difference between the two classes, so I really try to make mine design focused.

JC: Your class seems to be focused on the meaning of design and looking at the difference between design and art. What is that for you?

TCK: It's constantly in flux. I think that you can even think of painting as a designed object. You can reason anything to be a design object, I feel that you can think of a painting as a design object. Design starts with a problem. Let's say I'm an artist and I need money. I can look at the art market and look at what's selling right now. People are buying colorful paintings, so then I make colorful paintings and put them on the wall in order to be sold. That's a straight up design process. Kehinde Wiley, for example, always talks about how as a young child he loved baroque and renaissance portraiture, but none of the subjects looked like him. So he changed that. He fixed that problem by making the paintings that he did, paintings with

people who look like him.

Think Marcel Duchamp, Ana Mendieta, Robert Smithson, Eva Hesse—I'm very much inspired by these people because they added their process to already designed material. I love the idea of sending a readymade object through a process.

JC: You seem to be hyper-aware of the material that you use for your work. Do you try to impart some of this conscientiousness of material to your students?

TCK: Yes, we speak about this when we discuss recontextualization and the imbued meaning, or spiritual meaning, that a material may have. I think it's a very typical Kenyan thing to be so mindful about the source and context of material. Whether it's spiritual or historical, there's an innate understanding of these associations. In America right now, there's a huge discussion of the origin of things, how things are made, etc. It seems like people are wanting to know where things come from. I try to teach this to my students, especially if they're artists, because it's important to understand the context of where they might be placing things. This is something that I am constantly thinking about.

On the Record: The (Still!) Rolling Stones

By Allison Rapp
Opinions Editor

I wasn't going to go. I was going to shield my bank account from the ticket distributing sites and have a relaxing early summer weekend; perhaps drink a glass of chilled wine on my fire escape. But when my mother called last week to inform me that she had mistakenly purchased an extra two tickets to a particular concert, a blunder that cost her a pretty penny, I tossed the idea around. Selling the tickets back would have eased some financial pressure off her, it would leave my weekend free to settle into a new internship I was hoping to land, and it would keep me off the dreaded eight-hour Amtrak trip home. But ultimately, I couldn't bring myself to say no.

This kind of inner turmoil can only mean one thing: The Rolling Stones are out on tour again. Do I go?

Here are the pros:

1. All members of the band seem healthy, active, and extremely excited to be out on the road. Nothing but good vibes.

2. They're playing my hometown of Buffalo. This is particularly important because although Buffalo's music scene has upheld a consistent reputation for being a gracious host, we are almost always skipped over for the bigger cities in the northeast, like Toronto or Philadelphia. (The Rolling Stones have, thankfully, given us some recognition over the years, including a lyric in "Rip This Joint" that goes "dig that sound on the radio, then slip it right across into Buffalo.")

3. It's the first weekend in June: prime outdoor concert time.



4. The band will, as anyone who has been to a Stones concert will tell you, put on a good show. They are the opposite of Bob Dylan, who doesn't care whether you like the new versions of his songs and frankly won't even acknowledge that he has an audience at all. The Stones want to play it loud and have fun. They are reliable, if nothing else.

Here are the cons:

1. It's at the Buffalo Bills football stadium, where I have never been to a game, but I have been to one other Stones concert in 2015. The acoustics at a venue like this are shockingly awful.

2. By this point, The Rolling Stones are going through the motions. They play their usual hits ("Paint It Black," "Satisfaction," etc), the crowd goes crazy, and everyone gets more than a little wild. But there isn't a whole lot of room for experimenting with new arrangements or

digging into deeper cuts, which, for people like me, is a little disappointing. Every member of the band has always possessed a remarkable amount of talent; if only they had the ambition to be a bit more creative with it on stage. Give me an acoustic version of "Start Me Up," try a jam-band-style rendition of "Midnight Rambler" ... what do you have to lose when you're the greatest rock n' roll band in the world?

These aren't really cons, but they are sacrifices you have to make when you see as iconic as the Stones. When I told a friend that I planned on going they said, "Good, you should. They're gonna die anyway."

People have been saying that for years, and we all know that given the lifestyles they lived, The Rolling Stones probably should have been dead around 40 years ago. But they're not, and if I've learned anything as

a classic rock fan, you have to grab these tickets while you still can. I saw Tom Petty live a mere few months before his death. Rock n' roll may never die, but the guys who got its gears turning sure will.

So this week I spun what is perhaps amongst my top five Stones albums: *Some Girls*, released in 1978. It is their most successful album in the United States, and includes hits like "Beast of Burden," "Miss You," and "Respectable." It's also the first Stones album in which Ronnie Wood plays as full-time member of the band.

I could tell you that *Some Girls* is the record that you should start out with if you're a new fan, or that the songs are some of the best that Jagger and Richards ever wrote, but my personal advice for you New Yorkers is to turn "Shattered" way up loud. An ex-boyfriend once told me "the only way the volume knob

should go is up," and I thought it was silly at the time, but now I realize that there are some songs that insist — require — that they be played at full blast.

"Pride and joy and greed and sex,

That's what makes our town the best

Pride and joy and dirty dreams and still surviving on the street!"

Maybe part of the reason the Stones have been around for as long as they have is because us fans have absolutely refused to let go of them. They embody the exact characteristics that we've always envisioned rock n' roll people to have. They're hard, tough, messy, and reckless. And even when they grew older, those things stuck with them. There will never be another textbook-definition rock band like The Rolling Stones. It's only rock n' roll, but after 50 years, we still like it.

Greta Thunberg: Veteran of the Climate War

By Michael Castaneda
Columnist

Greta Thunberg, climate activist, is my new hero. She's a little bad-ass.

Have you ever watched the video of her speaking to the Masters of the Universe at Davos or at the United Nations, just to mention a couple of notable places? There she is, a 16-year-old who looks young for her age, speaking down to her audience of the rich and powerful, berating them in the harshest of tones. She has a feud with Donald Trump and comes out ahead. It's phenomenal.

I am a little late to the game. There is already a wax sculpture of her in Hamburg, Germany, which speaks to how much of an international star she is. While I was browsing Kramer Books in Dupont Circle, Washington, D.C. over winter break I happened to pick up her book, *No One Is Too Small to Make a Difference*. It is a 106-page collection of her speeches.

As I became more familiar with Greta, I started to notice all the accolades directed at her. She is being lauded as a hero, but as a hero who has already won the battle. This is a direct contradiction to her message, which is that nothing is being done about climate change. By giving Ms. Thunberg a medal like a war hero from a past foreign war, it squelches her message and puts it in the past. It feels like part of a disturbing trend of looking at protest as the

achievement in itself, similar to looking at the movement of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and saying that racism has been defeated.

Of course, Greta is well aware of this and has, for instance, turned down the Nordic Council's Environmental Prize. It paid 350,000 Danish Kroner, according to *The Guardian*. That's a lot of Kroner. (Scandinavia is not on the Euro, but is in the European Union.)

So in honor of Greta Thunberg's message, let's look at her bullet points. To help understand these points, I spoke with Dr. Scott Gianelli, a former research scientist at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in New York. (You know the building if you have ever seen the TV show *Seinfeld*.) He now teaches courses on climate science on Long Island.

Greta pulls data for her speeches from the 2019 IPCC report, and from the Paris Agreement, which was signed on April 22, 2016, until Trump signaled his intention to pull us out of it by November 2020. All the information in these two reports is available freely online.

As Dr. Gianelli points out, "So far, the increase in carbon dioxide has been linear since 1970, but now it's starting to curve." What this means is that the CO₂ emissions have historically increased at a predictable rate, but nowadays the graph is becoming parabolic.

The global temperature needs to be kept below 1.5



Thunberg, holding a sign saying "School Strike for Climate." / Wikimedia Commons

degrees centigrade. We are already 2.3 centigrade above pre-industrial levels for carbon dioxide. At the current rate, we are looking to increase 1.3 degrees centigrade from January 1, 2018 to 2039. By 2035 we should be well above 1.5 degrees centigrade, which Greta calls the point of no return.

It is still possible to fix this! However, as Ms. Thunberg notes, that would depend on technology that hasn't been invented yet.

There exists a carbon budget, which, on

January 1, 2018, was 480 gigatonnes of CO₂, and is rapidly depleting.

We are already seeing the effects of climate change and the damage the industrial age is doing. We are in a sixth mass extinction where we are losing species 10,000 times faster than normal. We are seeing erosion of topsoil, deforestation, toxic air pollution, loss of insects worldwide, and the acidification of the oceans.

Carbon dioxide stays in the atmosphere for a really long time. There is still CO₂ from the 1970s

up there right now. An optimistic scenario is that even if everything was done correctly from right now, we would not see the planet go back to normal in our lifetime.

So what needs to happen? We need to treat this as an emergency, because it is one. America needs to use this as a great movement like the moon missions and the war effort in World War II. As Winston Churchill once said, "Americans will always do the right thing, after they have tried everything else."

Hot take? We'll take it.

Our opinions section takes submissions from current BC students. For more info, write to thebcvanguard@gmail.com, or directly contact Allison Rapp (our current opinions editor) at allisonrapp22@gmail.com.

Low Qui Savage: Every Roosevelt Has Its Thorn

Or, Reassessing the Legacy of Roosevelt Hall's Namesake (and the president too)

By Quiara Vasquez
Editor-in-Chief

Astute readers will note that we didn't print an issue last Wednesday. Not because there was a shortage of news, mind you, nor due to a tragically misplaced banana peel in the Vanguard office, but for a much simpler reason: a tall guy with a dumb hat and a beard got in our way. Happy birthday, Mr. President.

Yes, classes were preempted for everyone's second- and third-favorite February holidays: Lincoln's birthday on Wednesday the 12th, and Washington's birthday on the 17th. (Number one being V-Day, of course. Groundhog Day is pseudo-pagan nonsense and Punxsutawney Phil is a scuzzy rat-faced little shit. Ash Wednesday? Don't make me laugh.) And it makes sense that we have two separate holidays for two separate chunks of Mount Rushmore - according to C-SPAN's octennial Presidential Historians Survey, Lincoln has come on top in every single list, and Washington's been a close second. And today, they will escape my wrath. No, it's the #3 entry on their list that's the target of my ire this week: a man inextricably tied to this campus, even though he shouldn't be; a man whose name is inscribed on the facade of the building I spend approximately twelve bajillion hours a week in.

I refer, of course, to Franklin Delano Roosevelt, figurative architect of the New Deal, and, by extension, the literal architect of Brooklyn College. BC's campus was one of the many projects launched by the Public Works

Administration (PWA) to jumpstart the nation's economy at the height of the Great Depression; accordingly, the campus named one of the original five buildings at BC after FDR.

Certainly, the legacy of the New Deal is worth celebrating. And boy, do we celebrate it here in New York City. Here on campus, the Tow Center hosted an exhibit last year singing the praises of the Federal Arts Project (FAP - what an acronym!); one borough over, a freshman Congresswoman you may or may not have heard of has appropriated the term "New Deal" for her proposed radical overhaul of our environmental policy.

What's odd about this is that this liberal veneration of Roosevelt comes from the same people who decry Trumpism, especially as it relates to immigration policy. But Trump's cruelty towards immigrants is really just a natural extension of FDR-era policies. And no, I'm not just talking about internment - although, it does bear repeating that 120,000 totally innocent West Coasters of Japanese descent were rounded up and placed into literal concentration camps at FDR's behest.

No, I'm referring to the travesty of 20th century American history you didn't read about in high school history: the Mexican Repatriation of the 1930s. This truly despicable policy, started under Herbert Hoover in the months following the stock market crash of 1929, encouraged people of Mexican descent to voluntarily move from the U.S. to Mexico. Alarming, this departure wasn't



Would our college perhaps be better off left bereft of FDR? / David Low

voluntary so much as it was "volunteered"; even more alarmingly, most of the people deported this way were American citizens who "looked" Mexican, who were targeted to make jobs for "real" (read: white) Americans.

The bulk of these "repatriations" happened under Hoover's watch, but when FDR took office in 1933, he did nothing to stop the local governments who were targeting Mexican-Americans. It's one of many stains on Roosevelt's legacy when it comes to immigration and race relations - alongside internment and his apathy towards the tide of Jewish immigrants freeing Nazi Germany.

Some will object to my disparaging Roosevelt along these lines - after all, he appointed Jews and African-Americans to several key positions, and wasn't overtly racist like his predecessor (or some other presidents we could name). But every president is similarly complicated. We can choose to remember Dwight Eisenhower as the man who viewed

desegregation as a moral crusade so important it warranted military force, or as the bigot who deported over a million Mexican immigrants (legal or otherwise) in the alarmingly named "Operation Wetback." We can choose to remember Barack Obama as the man whose very election broke the color barrier to the presidency, or as the bigot who deported over a million Mexican immigrants (I'm beginning to notice a trend here) and garnered the nickname "deporter-in-chief" from Latino activists. Even Abraham Lincoln's goodness is up for debate, as some historians argue that his personal beliefs weren't quite in line with his soaring abolitionist rhetoric.

The truth is, it doesn't quite matter which view of the presidents is "right." What deserves celebration isn't the men themselves (and yes, sadly, they're all men - sorry, Pantsuit Nation) - what matters is the values they stood for. Consider Thomas Jefferson: most Americans hold dear the ideas espoused in the Declaration of

Independence, for instance, even as we acknowledge that its primary author was a slaveholder and a rapist. We'll still care about life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness as we venture further into the 21st century - even if we do (and ultimately should) erase the man who wrote those words down from our cultural memory.

For years now, I've heard rumors of the impending demolition of Roosevelt Hall. I'm not sure it'll ever happen within our lifetime. But when it does, I hope the name Roosevelt dies with it. Perhaps they'll come up with some new namesake, some new liberal icon with closer ties to BC - Chisholm Hall? Sanders Hall? Calzadilla-Palacio Hall? (That last one may strain credulity.) More likely than not it'll go the way of the Koppelman School and be named for some millionaire alum. But the best namesake would be no namesake at all; for our institutions to celebrate not the famous men that once walked their halls, but the virtues they claim to represent.

Men's Volleyball Looks to Regain Footing

By Conrad Hoyt
Sports Editor

The Brooklyn College men's volleyball team dropped to 4-7 Saturday after being shut out in a non-conference three-way tournament against New Jersey City University and Wilkes University.

Brooklyn fell 0-3 to New Jersey City University, then met the same fate to Wilkes University 0-3. After starting the season 3-1, the Bulldogs have dropped seven of their last eight matches, and these two shutout losses back-to-back are a big wake-up-call for a team that was already sputtering, and free-falling down the standings quickly.

Brooklyn were defeated 25-15, 25-16, 25-9 in the three games against New Jersey City. Momentum drives a lot of these games, and in the first match the



Bulldog Omar Rezika on the court. / Damion Reid

Bulldogs were not able to put together more than a two-score rally until the final game.

Against Wilkes, the Bulldogs lost the first game 25-7, but fought back with purpose in the second, just bowing out 25-21, before falling in the third game 25-12.

On the season, Brooklyn is trailing its opponents in kills 286-

365, assists 254-320, and aces 86-96. They also lead their opponents in ball handling errors, 19-9.

Senior Michael Valentin leads the team in assists with 220, an absurd tally and percentage of the team's overall number, and in service aces and digs with 18 and 79, respectively. Junior Jasper Diangco

leads the team in kills with 73.

Even with a 4-7 overall record, the Bulldogs are 1-1 in CUNYAC play, which has them as the second seed if the playoffs were to start today. Thus, the focus for the Bulldogs should be for the big picture, keeping morale high, fixing mistakes, and gearing up for a late-

season push that will give them momentum heading into the CUNYAC playoffs.

Brooklyn will look to stop their recent skid Wednesday, February 19, with a home match against Misericordia University at 6pm.



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Men's Basketball Drops to 9-15



Bulldog Anthony McClean shoots from the line. / Damion Reid

By Kwame Perez
Staff Writer

The Brooklyn College men's basketball team is looking to salvage what's left of what has been a tough season after dropping games to Baruch and John Jay.

The Bulldogs were unsuccessful in their attempts this week to put an end to their losing streak falling to Baruch College on Wednesday 86-73, and then to John Jay College on Saturday 79-60. They

now sit 9-15 for the season and are 6-7 in conference play. Senior guard Anthony McClean led the way for the Bulldogs with 19 points while sophomore guard, Kayin Olajide added 15 in the loss to Baruch.

Wednesday's game against Baruch started out rough for the Bulldogs; down 15 while trying to end a losing streak is no easy feat. In the first half they shot a poor 36 percent from the field as a team, but stepped it up in the

second half, shooting over 50 percent from the field.

Against the top team in the conference, the Bulldogs were up for the challenge against John Jay leading 34-29 going into the second half. But they were blitzed off the court in the second, giving up 50 points to John Jay and scoring 8 points less than they did in the first half.

Junior Guard Noah Shy led the way with 18 points while Senior guard Orri Cohen added 13, the only players in double

digit scoring.

Rebounding has been the achilles heel for this team and this game was no different, as the Bulldogs were outrebounded 34-25 by Baruch and were dominated on the boards by John Jay 45-29. Now for the season, they are outrebounded 998 to 856 and are averaging at least 6 less rebounds per game.

This season for the Bulldogs has been rough to say the least, with the team sitting at 9-15 for the season, 6-6 for the season

away from home and 3-9 at the West Quad Building. They currently sit 5th in the standings.

With the season coming to an end, the Bulldogs must look past what has been a tough week of games and prepare for Medgar Evers on Tuesday, who is currently 7-17 and are sitting right behind the Bulldogs in conference play at 4-9. This gives an opportunity for the Bulldogs to end their losing streak against a weaker opponent.

Vinny the Goat by Gabrielle Toro Vivoni

