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**THE BROOKLYN COLLEGE**

# **VANGUARD**

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# BC Zip Code Among 9 To See COVID Closure

By Gabriela Flores  
*Features Editor*

The zip code where Brooklyn College resides is one of nine zip codes in Brooklyn and Queens seeing closures as COVID-19 positivity rates rise above three percent for over seven consecutive days.

Brooklyn College, located in zip code 11210, has garnered a 6.14 percent positivity rate. To control the spread of the virus within these areas, public officials plan to “rewind” some aspects of reopening.

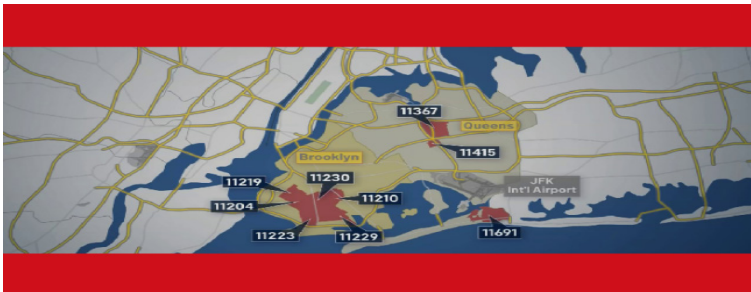
“We’ve learned over and over from this disease that it is important to act aggressively, and when the data tells us it’s time for even the toughest and most rigorous actions, we follow the data, we follow the science,” said NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio in a briefing on Sunday, Oct. 04.

Six Brooklyn neighborhoods are within the nine zip codes, including Borough Park, Midwood, Gravesend, Bensonhurst, and Sheepshead Bay. Another 12 zip codes are on the city’s

watchlist as their COVID cases have rapidly increased, but have not yet reached above three percent for seven consecutive days. Brooklyn College is near some of these 21 hard-hit areas, including Midwood and Kensington, with positivity rates at 7.28 and 3.02 percent respectively.

De Blasio initially planned to reinstate severe restrictions within the nine hotspot zip codes by Wednesday, Oct. 6 -- calling for the closure of all schools, nonessential businesses, and restaurants -- but, under the review of Governor Andrew Cuomo, the rollback of lockdown has been modified. Per the state’s request, the school closure timeline moved one day earlier than the mayor proposed. The immediate shutdown of nonessential businesses was rejected by Cuomo, who stated that further revisions must be made. According to the Daily News, he assigned the state to oversee the enforcement of mask-wearing and social distancing in these zip codes.

“Too many local



COVID-19 cases are rising in New York./NBC

governments are not doing enforcement,” Cuomo said in a briefing on Monday, Oct. 5. Under Cuomo’s guidance, the city will also hold accountable religious institutions that do not comply with COVID-19 precautions.

Though the spikes in COVID-19 cases remain lower than the pandemic’s peak, when the percent of NYC residents who tested positive was 71.25, the clusters remain a concern for many. Both Cuomo and de Blasio have not stated that these figures bode a second-wave, but they will determine what measures are implemented across the hardest hit zip codes in the coming weeks.

As for how this affects Brooklyn College, the

administration makes it clear that the current rise in cases does little to affect whether or not campus will open for the winter or spring sessions, and ultimately the decision to reopen comes from higher powers.

“The College’s administration is following the news closely, and any decisions moving forward will be based on the latest NY State, CUNY and local public health guidance. While the timeline ultimately comes from those entities, the Reentry Committee will work to ensure the campus is as safe as possible for students, faculty, and staff,” said Carrie Sadovnik, Director of Environmental Health and Safety, and head of BC’s Reentry Task Force.

## Anti-Racist Implementation Team Addresses Faculty Issues

By Dorette Dayan  
*Staff Writer*

Last Wednesday, the Implementation Team for Racial Justice at Brooklyn College held two listening sessions for faculty members to discuss the college’s anti-racist agenda as it pertains to them.

Chief Diversity Officer Anthony Brown, Vice President of Student Affairs Ronald Jackson, and Business Management Department Chairperson James Lynch ran both Zoom sessions, at 12 PM and 6 PM.

“The purpose of this particular session is to solicit feedback from faculty regarding supportive measures you need in addressing racism in all of its forms at Brooklyn College, but general concerns will be entertained as well,” Said Anthony Brown.

He explained that this is an evolving process and that they hope to gain feedback by consistently holding listening

sessions.

Professor Alexandra Juhasz of the Film Department opened up the conversation by addressing the problem of lack of representation.

“The under-representation of faculty of color is an egregious problem,” Juhasz said.

Brown shared that the Implementation Team has disbanded hiring search committees made up of overwhelmingly White faculty. Also, Brown said the college has been hiring more people of color, though that may not always be easy to notice since in comparison with other institutions because Brooklyn College hires smaller numbers of faculty at a time.

Some faculty members expressed their concerns about budget cuts limiting the resources available to implement the recommendations made at these listening sessions.

“What is the college going to actually do with any of

these recommendations that actually involves investing some money instead of asking people to do more when they’re already doing way more than they should?” asked Professor Mobina Hashmi of the Television, Radio and Emerging Media Department.

Jackson clarified that most of the problems that have been brought up have to do with student-faculty interactions, which doesn’t require a lot of money. Still, faculty members feel overwhelmed and that they’re doing a lot of extra, unpaid work to compensate for lack of funds, such as mentoring and participating on committees like the implementation team.

Other faculty members voiced their frustration from the lack of action taken by Brooklyn College’s administration.

“We don’t need any more listening sessions,” said Professor Hashmi. “We need action. That is something that we’ve said repeatedly and that

hasn’t been listened to.”

Professor Hyuna Park shared her experience as part of a majority white committee she was on. “I felt very isolated as a person of color in that situation,” she said. She elaborated that faculty members of color are not always represented in all different levels and leadership positions. She requested that one of the goals of the Implementation Team be “to make sure important decisions are made by a diversified body to prevent that kind of unfair situation.”

According to Brown, this is not the first time that they’ve heard of faculty members and students feeling isolated as people of color.

“That climate will not be tolerated,” he promised.

The faculty members closed the meeting by expressing their appreciation towards the unpaid volunteer work that the Implementation Team is doing, which is necessary in making Brooklyn College a better place.



on top of their course load, many are feeling the weight of taking an entire semester's worth of classes from home. Without the traditional in-person support from library staff, learning center tutors, department advisors, let alone the comradery shared between students, a semester online presents new challenges. Whether or not students are actually being assigned more work, the virtual campus has a long way to go before it can be as accommodating to students as an in-person one.

# BC Student GOV Petitions To Protect Student Privacy

By Maya Schubert  
News Editor

Towards the end of September, CUNY students took part in a petition protesting CUNY’s potential implementation of online proctoring software. The petition on change.org, which has over 28,000 signatures so far, requested that CUNY find alternatives to exam monitoring through the software service ProctorTrack, under the assertion that the programs in question would infringe on student privacy.

Aharon Grama, BC’s USG Chief of Staff and a Delegate of USS, started the petition after several students reported over social media that they were being asked by professors to purchase the software, which monitors students’ eye movements, audio environment, video feed from webcams, the names of applications running on computers, and linked hardware devices. The software does not monitor browsing history or read personal files. Grama’s petition quickly gained traction, gaining support from CUNY students across campuses.

“It went kind of viral, and that’s when we



ProctorTrack, a software service that monitors students while they take tests./Bright Space

got the response from CUNY,” said Grama. On September 1, CUNY updated its website regarding online proctoring to include a statement from the Office of Legal Affairs. “The Office of Legal Affairs (OGC) has reviewed the Terms and Conditions of several online testing application services and it is OGC’s position that faculty cannot compel students to accept the corresponding tools “Terms and Conditions,” the note read. In other words, even if the software is installed and publicized on an instructor’s syllabus, students may opt out of being proctored. “I’m satisfied that at least that was clarified,” Grama said of the Office’s conclusion. “I still feel like they shouldn’t require students to opt out -- they should more ask students to opt in to something like this.” CUNY’s webpage on Academic Continuity to Campuses explains that “there are several courses across the university, including in specialized and licensure programs, that rely on traditional testing approaches and need an online proctoring solution. To serve these courses, the taskforce [on remote proctoring solutions] identified some commercial tools that the University has since been pursuing for possible procurement and implementation.” “As far as I know, it hasn’t become available for use,” said BC Computer Science Professor Ari Mermelstein, who haad listed the software on his syllabus for potential use. CUNY’s page currently reads that “more information will be forthcoming,” but according to a memo sent to the Counsel of Presidents, CUNY has already procured Proctortrack. The memo reads that the university is “working hard to have this solution enabled and accessible for students and faculty by mid to late October.” According to Media Relations Manager Rich Pietras, Brooklyn College is not using the software. In addition to recognizing students’ rights not to participate in the proctoring, CUNY’s webpage acknowledges that students may not be required to turn on cameras during tests or during classes in remote meetings.



# Chavela, Frida, and La Llorona, BC Hispanic Heritage Month Event

By Gabriela Flores  
*Features Editor*

To celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month, Brooklyn College hosted an online presentation called “Chavela, Frida, and La Llorona: Performing Queer Mexicanidad,” which showcased two queer icons who challenged gender binarism: singer Chavela Vargas and visual artist Frida Kahlo. Speaker Ana R. Alonso-Minutti, a music professor at the University of New Mexico, offered an analysis of the bond these creatives shared in life, focusing on the love Vargas expressed for Kahlo through her performances and rendition of “La Llorona,” or the Weeping Woman.

“Although regarded as archetypes of Mexicanidad, Chavela and Frida, as cultural products, are rich sides to explore the levels in which non-binary individuals forcefully resist the imposed defining lines of national identification for women,” said Alonso-Minutti.

La Llorona is a Hispanic folklore about a woman who drowned her children for revenge against their father. Though many versions of the tale exist, all depict the woman as spending eternity weeping and searching for her dead children. To Chicana feminists, Alonso-Minutti explained, La Llorona symbolizes a voice of resistance against male domination. For women living in patriarchal communities, being a mother is their sole responsibility, but La Llorona completely disregards this ideology and challenges the status quo. Over time,



Frida Kahlo and Chavela Vargas./ Wall Street International Magazine

La Llorona has been passed down from pre-Columbian times and developed into a song that has allowed many singers like Vargas to spin-off the classic legend.

Many scholars, including Alonso-Minutti, believe that Vargas openly expressed her adoration for Kahlo through her rendition of La Llorona. Vargas arguably describes the “motherly lover” role that the visual artist played in her life. As Alonso-Minutti explained, Vargas and Kahlo shared an immense love for one another that possibly went beyond their friendship. Though Vargas and Kahlo’s audiences will never know if they were together romantically, it is no secret that they shared a unique bond—one where the artist was Vargas’ mentor. With her wealth of knowledge, experiences, and character that redefined what Mexican womanhood looked like, Kahlo became

Vargas’ role model.

“From Frida, not only did Chavela learn how to break molds but also how to fully embrace her own life,” said Alonso-Minutti. “In her own words, and I quote, ‘Because of Frida, if I am born again, I would be named the same.’”

Using her deep raspy voice, with a cigarette and tequila in hand, Vargas would spew her sentiments for Kahlo with each verse of La Llorona she personalized to fit her tone. In many of her performances of the song, Vargas would change the gender pronouns throughout her lyrics to assume the role of a man.

“Everyone calls me the Black man, Llorona/Black, but affectionate/I am like the green chile, Llorona/spicy hot, but tasty,” Vargas would sing. “Oh, woe is me! Llorona, Llorona/Llorona, take me to the river/Cover me with your shawl, Llorona because I’m dying of cold.”

Though they were born

in different countries and circumstances, both Kahlo and Vargas shared similar hardships that led them to become renowned, revolutionary creators. Each had unconventional personalities that were frowned upon by their conservative families and communities. Rather than succumb to gender roles, they decided to use their art as a creative outlet to express their true selves without any constraints.

“(…)There are important parallelisms that Chavela drew with Frida throughout her life: one being a naturaleza rara --a weird nature. They are not normal beings, they belong to an abnormal world -- un mundo raro,” said Alonso-Minutti. “Chavela expressed, quote, ‘We use to share the same thoughts at the same time, we thought about the same things, and we wanted the world to be as we dreamed.’”

Despite the societal judgment they faced in

embodying their identity, each icon used their art to pave the way for queer Mexicanidad to be displayed publicly and openly. Through her cover of La Llorona, Vargas demonstrates something besides her admiration for Kahlo: her strength to not conform to gender roles.

“For Chavela, and for many other artists, and listeners across the world, La Llorona is a mirror in which one understands oneself to be,” said Alonso-Minutti. “The story of La Llorona is a story of resistance of female sexuality, of resilience, of rebirth, and borders crossed. It is one that speaks to all of us—for all of us to face our own struggles.”

# Hess Scholar Winona LaDuke Gives Lecture On Building A Brighter Future

By Chaya Gurkov  
Staff Writer

Originally spoken by Hunkpapa Lakota leader Sitting Bull, the 2020 Hess Scholar in Residence and rural development economist Winona LaDuke echoed the words in her lecture dubbed Lighting the 8th Fire, Economics for the 7th Generation, as she expounded on ways to relocalize our economy and energy sources.

The message of hope remained steadfast throughout the lecture, even as LaDuke explained that she sees the environmental crises and current pandemic as an outgrowth of the Wendigo (canibal) economy that takes without giving.

"The idea that was crystallized in Standing Rock that the rights of corporations have superseded the rights of individuals -- that must be changed," she emphasized.

Although constrained to an online forum, LaDuke's energy translated through the screen from her reservation in Minnesota. Drawing from her past, she offered listeners a story that inspired her as a Harvard undergraduate years ago when her father came to visit her in Boston one semester.

"He said to me, 'I don't want to know your philosophy if you can't grow corn,'" she said.

Besides being a hemp farmer for five years with an interest in rebuilding the hemp industry in

this country, LaDuke has been leading the charge to normalize the relocalization of our food sources and move towards renewable energy.

And some of those first steps include moving away from our current globalized economy towards a pre-agricultural system like the ones indigenous people have been known to uphold. LaDuke maintained that our current systems have only enabled the virus to spread as quickly as it did.

"We have always been told that bigger is best," she said. "Turns out that economics of scale is not a resilient plan, nor is it a stable plan when there is a big crisis because it cannot change quickly."

Mother nature doesn't love when we don't give her the respect she demands, and LaDuke called out the biggest tar sands oil corporation in Canada. Located in Alberta, she labeled it as just one of the many companies that has been leaving the highest and dirtiest carbon footprint in the world.

Thus, she explained another major part of the Sitting Bull plan -- shifting energy away from fossil fuel companies to renewable sources.

Perhaps highlighting an earlier comment that "the minds that got us into this mess are not the ones who will get us out of it," LaDuke introduced an example of a woman named Melina Laboucan-



Hess Scholar in Residence and rural development economist, Winona LaDuke./  
[Brooklyn.Cuny.Edu](https://Brooklyn.Cuny.Edu)

Massimo, who is known for installing 20 kilowatts of solar panels in a solar project for her community of Little Buffalo, Alberta.

"Visionary people will figure out a system that is powered on electricity and renewable energy sources," LaDuke said, once again inserting hope into the grim situation.

LaDuke is not alone in the fight. Mentioning that America and civil societies all over should take note, she spoke about the actions of former Bolivian

president Evo Morales when he became the first to affirm the rights of nature in the Bolivian Constitution.

"The earth has a right to exist and not be contaminated. It has a right to continue giving life," LaDuke said.

This is what she meant when she began her lecture by saying that we should make America great again -- moving back to a time when there was tremendous biodiversity and respect for the land.

"America was great when the skies were

blackened by passenger pigeons and when you could drink the water from every stream," she explained.

The connection to that point came at the end of her lecture when she was asked what the individual can do in face of this overwhelming problem. After giving pointers on asking about where your food comes from and planting in local good gardens, LaDuke ended with a simple request: "Just try to do your best everyday."



# Home Grown: Five CUNY Women Running For Office

By Gabriela Flores  
Features Editor

To commemorate the 19th Amendment and 55th anniversary of the Voter Rights Act, the Women’s Center and Shirley Chisholm Project at Brooklyn College hosted an online event called “Home Grown: The Women of CUNY Alumni Candidates Forum.” Five former CUNY students turned grassroots candidates shared how they will build progressive communities across New York City. In the coming year, these women plan to take on local elections to pursue racial justice, affordable healthcare, defunding the police, and other social equities. Though they will face some challenges to implement systemic change, they are ready to reimagine the city’s political system.

“We really want everyone to have access to these amazing women who are running for office, who are really running in the legacy of Shirley Chisholm,” said moderator Zinga Fraser, Director of Shirley Chisholm Project, whose organization works to maintain the legacy of Chisholm, a BC alum herself, who advocated for progressive women to run for office.

Four of the five guest speakers are running for City Council to represent their prospective district. Representing Brooklyn’s District 39 is Brooklyn College alumna Shahana Hanif, who fights for street vendors, non-English speakers, undocumented immigrants, and other disadvantaged communities who are often overlooked. From the Bronx, candidates Althea Stevens (D16) and Elisa Crespo (D15) are seeking to better the livelihood of residents who collectively experienced “a pandemic before COVID-19,” having high rates of pre-existing conditions like asthma, diabetes, and unemployment.


Running for District 42 of

THE WOMEN OF CUNY  
ALUMNI CANDIDATES FORUM

Register at <https://tinyurl.com/CUNYCandidatesForumWC>  
Tuesday, October 6 | 5pm



Tahanie Aboushi  
Manhattan DA



Amoy K. Barnes  
Staten Island, D42



Elisa Crespo  
Bronx, D15



Shahana Hanif  
Brooklyn, D39



Althea Stevens  
Bronx, D16

“Home Grown: The Women of CUNY Alumni Candidates Forum,” an event hosted by the Women’s Center and Shirley Chisholm Project at BC./ **Bulldog Connection**

Staten Island, dubbed “the underestimated borough,” is Amoy K. Barnes, who pledges to tackle all challenges her community faces. Another candidate, who is running for District Attorney in Manhattan is Tahanie Aboushi, a civil rights lawyer. She has dedicated her life’s work to hold those in power accountable through her litigations, including the NYPD. If Aboushi wins this coming election, she will become the first female and person of color to be Manhattan’s DA.

Though each woman shares similar ambitions for uplifting the people of NYC, they have different upbringings and influences that drove them to the political podium.

At only 17, BC alum Hanif was diagnosed with lupus. She survived and persevered through many life-threatening health challenges -- which ultimately made her stronger. As an undergrad, she organized with her peers in protests that called for changes to the CUNY system, such as removing on-campus policing.

“CUNY is what gave me the anchor to be politicized. It gave me the voice to lead the fight to protect students everywhere. And to protect communities and families - working-class families - everywhere,” said Hanif.

For Bronx-native Stevens,

her strong advocacy for youth communities comes from her experience being a teenage mom at the age of 16. After being told by many youths to run for local office, Stevens felt the need to comply after witnessing the lack of representation they have in government, which contributed to their lack of political engagement.

“I keep telling people that my job is just to be here to get young people across the finish line,” said Stevens. “I need to help to make sure that our kids are inspired and ready to go because we have a long fight ahead of us.”

To Crespo, whose journey in local politics first began in 2015, the looming economic collapse and climate change the country faces are some of the many reasons she decided to run. One of her biggest influences is US Senator Bernie Sanders, and the leadership opportunities she was able to find as a John Jay undergrad.

“I really genuinely feel that it’s going to take a new generation of progressive, bold, fearless leaders to really bring systemic change to our New York City Council,” said Crespo.

After volunteering for the Peace Corps in Morocco, grassroots candidate Barnes decided to change her career plans completely. Though she planned to become a lawyer, she re-evaluated her own communal

involvement after speaking to Moroccan youth about standing up for what’s right.

“I realized that I had to practice what I preached and to make sure that I go back home, and I fight for what my community needs. Because just like I’m asking this community to fight for what their community needs, it’s my responsibility to go back home and fight for what my community needed,” said Barnes.

When she was 14 years old, DA candidate Aboushi’s father was sentenced to 22 years in prison. Overnight, her mother became the head of the household for ten children, including Aboushi. While sitting in her father’s hearing, alongside her siblings, Aboushi distinctly remembers the judge paused for a moment and asked the prosecutor, “What are you going to do with all of these kids?”

“And without hesitation, she said, ‘They’re not my problem.’ And so that was the moment that the system became my problem,” said Aboushi.

Throughout the event, all candidates shared a common goal for their political agendas in office: the defunding of police and reallocation of such funds to communities. Generally, the grassroots leaders agreed that there is a heavy reliance on police to handle issues that can be addressed locally, such as homelessness

or the enforcement of social distancing.

In light of the marches against police brutality, legislation such as the chokehold ban are becoming enacted, Aboushi explains.

“We had legislation that was sitting on our governor’s desk, and was sitting in City Council for years that would not pass. And in June, they all passed by majority, in one shot in response to the will of the people,” said Aboushi.

However, despite these changes in legislation, other systemic issues that evoke and contribute to racism in America will remain present. For BC alum Hanif she plans to confront the anti-Blackness rhetoric rooted within society by promoting the deep political education work that will aid in forming local coalitions.

As 2020 comes to a close, local elections for City Council and the District Attorney’s Office will soon approach. But in the meantime, these five progressive CUNY alumni will continue to aid their city by tackling one social injustice at a time -- carrying on the lessons that shaped them into the leaders they are today.



# Local BLM Group Claim Our Space Pushes For Voter Registration

By Olivia McCaa  
Staff Writer

Right off the Clark Street Station in Brooklyn, grassroots organization Claim Our Space gathered locals for a children's Black Lives Matters march, voter registration, and other communal services. Tables lined along the street provided neighbors with sanitation stations, voter registration forms, a Service Learning Project explaining the misuses of 911, and a place to buy t-shirts and masks. While it may have seemed chaotic to most walking by, the two grassroots founders Maria Louissaint and Dimitri Moise were very passionate and eager to work.

"We've had a lovely turnout and it really does bring hope that we have so many young people and families here," Louissaint said.

The goal of the day for their organization was simple: register people to vote, inform people on the amount of current inequality in voting, and garner support for a march for Black lives. As Louissaint said, "a fight for all Black lives is a fight for everybody."

There is no doubt that COVID-19 has significantly impacted people's willingness and ability to vote. While you may have never heard of Claim Our Space, the organization is fighting back against voter suppression and proving that every vote matters.

Louissaint explained that one of the biggest reasons people choose not to vote is because they believe their vote has no significance or impact. Louissaint understands this feeling but says that by not voting, "it is not the most sustainable way

to approach our issues." By voting, citizens can reposition themselves to focus on community-driven work.

Another major problem the grassroots team addressed is voter suppression amongst college students, non-English speakers, and those in remote communities, who Louissaint explains are often overlooked. College students, for instance, often dorm out-of-state and think that since they are registered to vote at home they are able to vote in their college town too. Many students are unaware that they need to change their address to cast their ballot somewhere besides their home neighborhood.

Louissaint argues that there is a purposeful "lack of sharing that knowledge." One example of this is with each state's ability to set its own registration date deadline, which can exclude people who were unable to register initially or those unaware of how to register.

To resolve these issues in New York, Claim Our Space has done numerous pop-ups in areas that have significantly low turnouts for voter registration. Co-founder Dimitri Moise described how in his area of Astoria, only 61 percent of eligible people are registered, which, he explained, can lead to a community being pushed out and isolated. Other neighborhoods, like District 10 in the Bronx, have the lowest voter registration and census participation. Moise explains that low turnouts, especially in regards to the census, can impact how much money goes directly back into the community. Moise emphasized that



Families lining up for the start of the Children's March for Black Lives Matter./Olivia McCaa

the census "only comes once every 10 years and this is the one place where everyone can be counted."

By not participating in the census, District 10 essentially loses \$2,300 per person.

One of Claim Our Space's main goals is to fight white supremacy by combatting any misinformation that is purposefully given to Black people and minorities. Moise explains that social media plays a big role in this problem since we have become accustomed to looking at the headlines and not fact-checking. This, in turn, further polarizes and heightens our inability to work together under a common goal. Moise believes that because of the media, the general public has become

apathetic and there is a lack of space for anyone to be able to talk and listen. Claim Our Space has built "a space that is open and inclusive for people."

"Many of the people using the resources include Black transgender and Black disabled people," said Moise.

To achieve their mission, Claim Our Space provides a national resource list across 15 different states. Their website provides accurate resources for legal assistance, food security, bailout information, and housing. Along with these resources, Moise also hopes to soon include resources for the whole country, as well as for veterans.

Claim Our Space encourages everyone to

register and participate in the election -- both local and national. When you vote, you may be voting for someone who is ineligible. Moise, for example, has parents who have immigrated from Haiti and are unable to vote. When he goes to the polls he remembers that he is voting for them.

You may think that your vote doesn't matter. However, by not voting, it increases the ability for our voices to be suppressed and should only further our willingness to push back. Moise emphasized, "how lucky we are to be able to raise our voice and determine how we want to be heard."



# Prof Eto Otitigbe Talks Importance of Public Art

By John Schilling  
*Arts Editor*

In a time when theater is non-existent and concerts are rare, art lives on only in public where it is constantly surrounding us, especially in New York City. From statues of historic figures to spray-painted graffiti on walls, public art has engulfed our communities, but not always in the way that we think.

“Public art can include interventions, actions, research, and community-building as well.”

These are the words of Eto Otitigbe, an art professor at Brooklyn College who has specialized in different forms of public art frequently throughout his career. Otitigbe sat down to discuss these experiences with numerous art students and professors on Sept. 30, when the Department of Africana Studies invited him to speak at “Voices for Change,” an ongoing series that focuses on how people address certain issues through specific mediums.

Professor. Dale Byam, who hosted the event, introduced Otitigbe, saying his work is typically based on “the intersections of race, power, and technology with history as the foundation for exploration.”

In his work, Otitigbe attempts to set “alternative narratives into motion,” especially when it comes to a piece he worked on called *Becoming Visible*.

*Becoming Visible* is a series of carved images

made of recycled plastic that depict a hooded Otitigbe and was a direct response to the acquittal of George Zimmerman, the man who killed Trayvon Martin, an unarmed black teenager in 2012.

“Trayvon Martin was wearing a hoodie when he was murdered, and I noticed on social media a lot of people...donned a hoodie as a symbol of protest,” Otitigbe explained. “So I too joined that action...and put on a hoodie myself.”

Otitigbe’s goal in doing so was to reappropriate the hoodie as a symbol from something negative to something that is “positive and powerful.”

“It has been really pivotal in my career as an artist,” Otitigbe revealed. “It has kind of catapulted me into another space.”

After his work on *Becoming Visible*, Otitigbe was invited to collaborate on a project at the University of Virginia that aimed to create a memorial dedicated to the enslaved laborers who contributed to the university’s upbringing and maintenance. Otitigbe joined the project after people from the university and Charlottesville made a specific request regarding the memorial.

“One bit of feedback they wanted was that the memorial needed to display a visual presence of those who were enslaved,” Otitigbe said.

This proved to be challenging, however, as the project’s team had over 4000

records of people who were enslaved with 900 names and only five photographs available. Of those five images, the team decided to use Isabella Gibbons, a woman who was enslaved at the University of Virginia.

“We decided to select Isabella Gibbons as someone who really exemplified that idea of triumph, hope or despair,” Otitigbe explained. “She went on to be an educator and opened the Jefferson school which is still in operation today as a community center.”

In designing this monument, the stone blocks acquired for the exterior posed a challenge to Otitigbe and the rest of the team, particularly the linear carving marks that remained from when they were excavated from the quarry. Ultimately, the team decided to keep them as representative of the enslaved people.

“These quarry marks are indicators of the kind of work that enslaved people would do,” Otitigbe explained. “Many of them did masonry-style work.”

While Otitigbe holds these projects in high regard, he made sure to clarify that his work transcends beyond subjects based on racial injustice. Otitigbe explained his interest in public art as an opportunity to explore his own curiosities and see where they take him.

“I think there is something seductive about finding a little piece of string in a sweater, pulling on it and having it take you on this adventure,” said Otitigbe. “For me that adventure involves a lot of research... and inserting myself in different communities and getting to know more about myself and more about the world.”

During his presentation, Otitigbe showed an image of himself at Jacob Riis Park in Rockaway Beach climbing a blue “puzzle piece” that was representative of a staircase into what he referred to as “an imaginary or alternative realm.” While simple in execution, Otitigbe thinks



Eto Otitigbe./CUNY

the image bears significant meaning.

“I think in a lot of ways it captures that idea of the exploration of curiosity and where it may lead,” Otitigbe shared. “I thought about public art as a way of working through, around, and with the different constraints and institutions that are involved in art-making and art consumption.”

While art can certainly be used to convey specific messages, Otitigbe expressed public art as a medium for the sake of “play.”

This includes one of Otitigbe’s first public artworks called *Looping Back*, a three-dimensional structure that was located on Randall’s Island for six months in 2013 and is made of tree bark from North Carolina.

“I really wanted to create artworks that were social in nature, that invited people to interact with them, that allowed people to claim these spaces and these artworks as something for themselves,” Otitigbe explained.

Throughout its tenure, Otitigbe would visit the park on occasion to check on his work. He often noticed children playing on it, as well as the structure being used as a BBQ pit. Such actions damaged the tree bark panels and required Otitigbe to frequently

replace them.

“I was okay with that,” Otitigbe revealed. “I was really interested in what happens when you put something that is...really different in the space where it was situated.”

In the coming weeks, Otitigbe is scheduled to create a sculpture in Mount Vernon, New York, of the late Heavy D, a rapper known for the song “Peaceful Journey,” which the sculpture will be named after. As a hip-hop fan who grew up in Albany, Otitigbe was able to insert himself into the project.

“He was really an outstanding artist,” Otitigbe shared. “He had really positive lyrics, and his messages were really empowering.”

For Otitigbe, public art can take on many different forms. Whether it’s to draw attention to societal issues, have some fun, or commemorate a specific person, public art speaks to us in different ways.

“I think that issues related to human rights, racial justice, and also the environment are all really important things that I like to focus on in my work,” Otitigbe said. “I encourage all of you to go out and look at art and see art and think about how it transforms you.”



Eto Otitigbe’s *Becoming Visible* (italicize becoming visible)./Eto Otitigbe



# Actress Juliet Mills Discusses Life & Zoom Theater With BC Students

By Amanda Almonord  
*Staff Writer*

Brooklyn College Film Professor Foster Hirsch led a discussion with Emmy winner and Tony-nominated British actress Juliet Mills in collaboration with The Lambs Inc, America's oldest professional social theater club.

Juliet Mills, a veteran actress of stage and screen alike is best known for her work in plays Five Finger Exercise (For which she received a Tony nom), the Billy Wilder film *Avanti!*, the small screen production *Nanny and the Professor*, both of which garnered her Golden Globe noms, and her Emmy award winning role as Samantha Cady in *QB VII*.

She also comes from a rather talented family as well. Her father, John Mills, was a well-seasoned actor whose career spanned over seven decades, and film buffs might also know her sister, Hayley Mills, who played the original twins from the 1961 film *The Parent Trap*.

"I love working with [my sister]," said Mills. "We trust each other so much, so it makes it very easy to work with somebody you know so well."

Despite spending a substantial amount of time with Walt Disney and skipping lines at Disneyland, Mills had a relatively normal childhood.

"[My parents] wanted



(Top to bottom) Actress Juliet Mills and Professor Foster Hirsch./ Collage by Humza Ahmad

all of us to do what made us happy and what we wanted to do," said Mills.

Due to the COVID-19 shutdown, the meeting naturally took place over Zoom, and Hirsch took the opportunity to ask about her pandemic endeavors.

"I've been doing a lot of Zoom theater," Mills said, "but it's not a genre I really enjoy, I have to say. It's absolutely terrifying because I find technology rather terrifying, and it's live...things go wrong; suddenly, the screen

goes blank, or you can't be heard."

Mills also finds acting on Zoom difficult in general. "It's very different because you're acting to the camera; you're acting to that little green dot on the computer...it's very strange," Mills said.

Despite this, Mills has no plans of retiring. "I don't want to retire. I love working; I love acting," Mills said. "My father didn't retire...his last performance was *Gus the Theatrical Cat* in a video production of *Cats*, which was much

better than the movie, I assure you."

While she has no desire to be a director, Mills is open to the thought of being a teacher. "I don't really know how to go about being a teacher but that I would like to do," Mills shared. "I really enjoy working with actors...maybe I should think about it more the way things are at the moment."

Before leaving the meeting, Mills offered some words of advice for actors just starting in the business. "If you're serious about

being an actor," she said, "you should start in the theater because it is the best training ground of all, there's no question about that."

"Television is more geared to personality, and there are lots of traps in television acting, especially sitcoms," Mills continued. "Playing for laughs is never the best in comedy. You never play for laughs, Billy Wilder taught me that. You play for truth, and if it's funny, that's great."



# Theater Students Demand More Inclusion in Dept, Artistic Director Resigns

By Michela Arlia  
Staff Writer

Over the summer, alumni and students of the Brooklyn College Dept. of Theater joined together across all concentrations to create what is now “The Brooklyn College Department of Theater Coalition.” For the past two months, the group worked tirelessly to create a list of student demands to be sent to faculty and staff. Most of the demands centered around the need for change within the department concerning proper representation and education for Black, Indigineous, and People of Color (BIPOC) students.

The final list of demands was sent out to faculty on Aug. 29 in the form of a 13 page document, including 14 articles pertaining to the entire department. The demands range from increased representation that is reflective of the student body, as well as student say on what productions are performed each semester.

“I wanted to join the team because each and every one of us obviously deserves to receive the education we’re paying for in a safe space where we’re treated with kindness, respect, and dignity,” said Jeremy Palmieri, a senior in the BA program and student representative. “Unfortunately that hasn’t been the experience for some of our peers 100% of the time,” he said. The coalition, which originally started out as a series of



Senior Theater student and representative Jeremy Palmieri (left) performing in a Brooklyn College production../ Dept. of Theater at Brooklyn College

student led meetings over Zoom, has transformed into a form of student assembly with elections for representatives in each cohort. The elections are coming up next week.

Among the list of demands was the request for faculty reform with term limits for full-time faculty and as the document reads: “We demand that the faculty (full-time and adjunct), staff, and guest artists in the Theatre Department mirror the diversity of the Brooklyn College student population (70% BIPOC, 30% White) by August 2021.” Following the publishing of these demands, Helen

Richardson, the newly appointed Artistic Director, stepped down from her position.

“I stepped down because I felt that it was essential for the Department to come together on certain issues vital to the Theater Department’s Season of Productions relating to Student Demands and just representation of BIPOC concerns before I could continue the work as Artistic Director,” Richardson told the Vanguard. Richardson added she believes the first step is for the department to undergo anti-racism and anti-bias workshops.

Along with Richardson’s

response came reactions from the various chairs of each cohort within the department.

“Your thoroughness and passion are recognized by all of us and I assure you that we are reviewing the document, processing the changes that you have asked for and look forward to a dialogue to address them,” said Kip March, the Chairperson of the Department.

Addressing the fact that “the revolution is here,” students and alumni are continuing their push for change with weekly Zoom meetings where they discuss their plans for working with the faculty to meet their needs.

While receiving feedback from all chairs within the department, the coalition feels there still is work to be done.

“We’ve been thanked for our initiative and our passion, and many of the faculty members sign off their responses with ‘in solidarity,’ but we’ve yet to see the faculty take as much action as we feel they should have already in the time since the students first started reaching out to them at the beginning of the summer,” says Palmieri. “So we sometimes feel that these responses, albeit positive, are just words.”

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# On The Record: Joe Biden’s Favorite Albums



By Allison Rapp  
*Opinions Editor*

You can learn an awful lot about a person based -- rightly or wrongly -- on their musical preferences. These choices can make or break first dates, inspire lifelong, deeply personal grudges, and, in the best of cases, serve as united common ground. It functions as a prime aspect of how we identify ourselves to others.

We, as voters, have heard plenty about Joe Biden’s policy pitches and his plans to steer America back towards something that resembles normalcy, but one thing I’ve yet to hear: Mr. Vice President, what is your favorite album? I took to social media to ask the constituents of this country what they believed it to be.

**Pisces, Aquarius, Capricorn, & Jones Ltd. by The Monkees**

“He’s old, he definitely used to smoke pot, but he also has bad taste.”

**Nothing That President Obama Listens To**

“I can’t picture him listening to Lizzo or Kendrick Lamar.” (President Obama has become well known for his annual list of songs he uses as the soundtrack to his own life.)

**Their Greatest Hits (1971–1975) by The Eagles**

“Because it is stuck in the 8-track player of his 1970 Corvette.” (This album got suggested not once, but twice. I can see it, he’s got a world of trouble on his mind.)

**Violator by Depeche Mode**

“It’s ol’ white guy fer sure, but not music nerd ol white guy...He should put the top down on that vette, throw on those dark aviators and pump some DM ‘Violator.’” (Perhaps Biden should start campaigning from behind the wheel of his car.)

**Son of Albert by Andrew Ridgeley**

“Because it’s nice, but a bit lightweight and not in the same league as when he was with the other guy...I’ve just realised you’re American and so this may not make any sense to you. Were Wham big in the US?” (Yes, yes they were.)

**The Captain and Me by The Doobie Brothers**

“Bitchin’ lead single where the singer talks about how cool trains

are, less bitchin’ followup single where the singer says racist stuff about Asians for three minutes - that’s Amtrak Joe in a nutshell.”

**Loggins and Messina (self titled) by Loggins and Messina**

“1) The harmonic, we all know Joey B. digs the French harp. 2) To hell with Momma not dancing, it’s about the B-side for the former VP. “Till the Ends Meet,” and its prelude instrumental, “Just Before The News” are, according to Joe, bangers.”

**Welcome Back, My Friends, to the Show That Never Ends – Ladies and Gentlemen by Emerson, Lake & Palmer**

“Because he is one persistent politician.”

**Abbey Road by The**

**Beatles**

“The safest pick from the most mainstream band of all time.”

The people have spoken. I won’t bother to ask the peanut gallery for their thoughts on Trump’s favorite albums -- it would be a waste of time considering I’m not sure he’s ever listened to music, much less enjoyed it. (Can you envision Trump at a... concert?) But for Biden, I can’t help but imagine him turning up the dial on the radio of that beloved green Corvette and heading on down the road.



# It's Not Over Yet: Learning From History (Or Not)

By Michael Castaneda  
*Columnist*

I can't tell you how many times I have heard people on the left speak of others "being on the wrong side of history" in terms of the Presidency of Donald J. Trump. Whether it's a democratic senator or a left leaning late night talk show comedian, it's used ad nauseam -- so much so that it almost seems complicit. This sort of language suggests that the war is over and the left won. Using this phrase implies that one is looking into the future as a depiction of Barack Obama replaces Andrew Jackson on the \$20 dollar bill, whispering "Trump lost!" In other words: "karma, baby!"

Having an advance copy of a history book that has yet to be written is surely comforting to those who feel the learned helplessness of the past four years. However, I am not sure that pandering to democratic voters' sense of optimism helps win an election.

Have we not been here before? I remember clearly watching Stephen Colbert dancing and singing "Mr. Mueller is coming to town!" to the tune of "Santa Claus Is Coming To Town." The implication was that the Mueller report would bring down Donald Trump. It didn't. Neither did impeachment and neither will the recent exposure of his tax returns.

Unfortunately, there

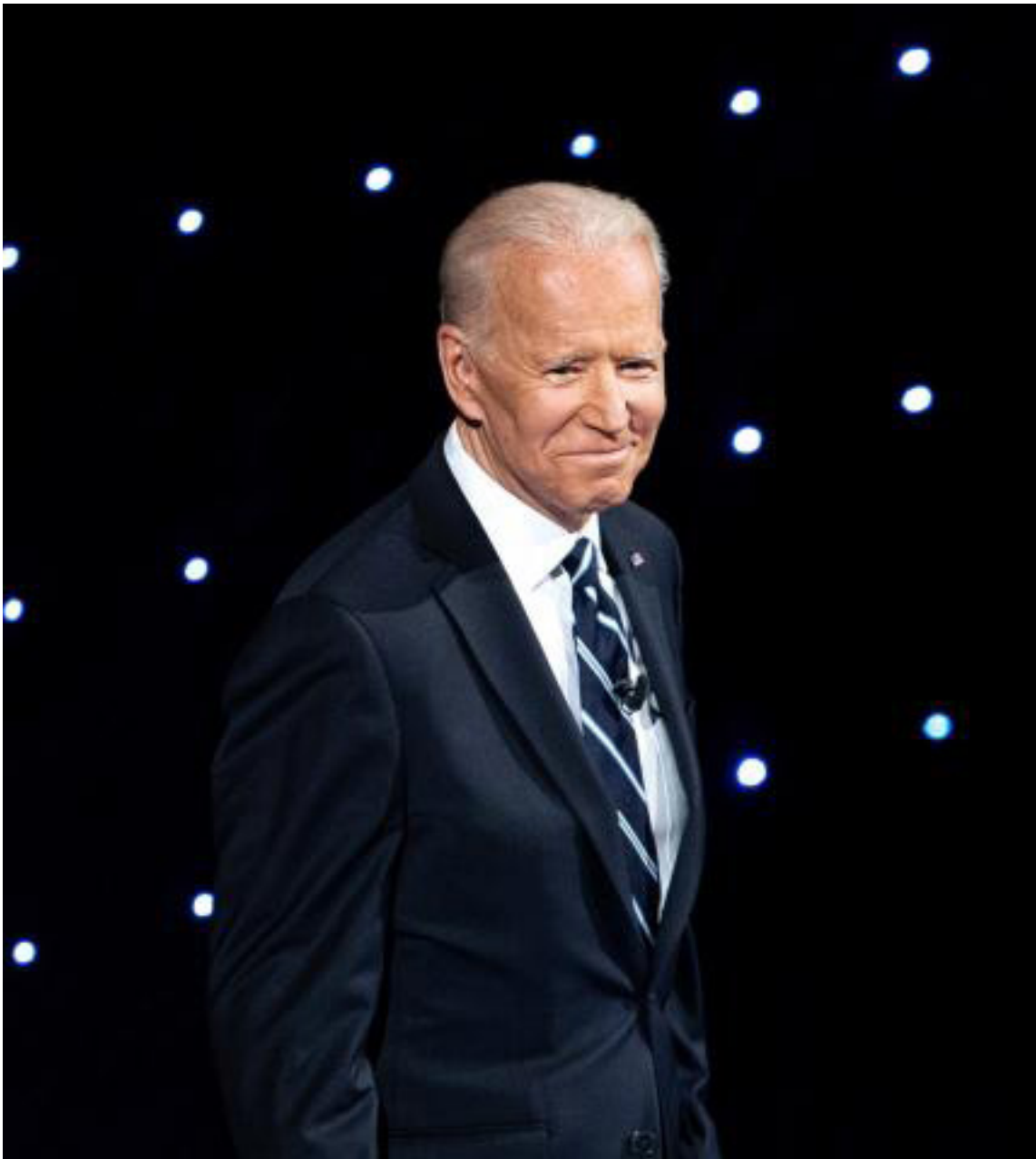
is no crystal ball to look into the future. In 2016, American statistician Nate Silver's website, FiveThirtyEight, made it look like Hillary Clinton would win the Presidential election. When she lost, Silver told us that we didn't understand statistics.

"I think people shouldn't have been so surprised," he said to the Harvard Gazette. "Clinton was the favorite, but the polls showed, in our view, particularly at the end, a highly competitive race in the Electoral College. We had him with a 30 percent chance, and that's a pretty likely occurrence. Why did people think it was much less than that? I think there are a few things. One is that I don't think people have a good intuitive sense for how to translate polls to probabilities."

So that's why we were wrong.

Right now, the polls are looking good for Joltin' Joe Biden. It might behoove those not on board with President Trump to know of a political theory known as the Bradley effect.

In the 1980s, popular Los Angeles mayor Tom Bradley, who was the city's first and only Black Mayor, ran for governor of California. The polls projected him as the likely winner. He lost. When responding to polls, people said they were going to vote for Bradley even though they had no intention of doing so -- they were embarrassed to say they weren't. This is just a



Joe Biden, Democratic Candidate for President of the US./ [nytimes.com](https://www.nytimes.com)

theory, but it's not hard to imagine someone saying they will vote for Biden when they will actually vote for Trump because where Trump is unpopular, he is really unpopular.

Roughly half of Americans don't vote. They tend to vote for candidates whom they are excited about, and those who are excited about Trump are very excited. He is seen as a once in a lifetime candidate. In red state areas, the slogan is everywhere: "God, Guns, Trump." They will definitely be going to the polls. The level of excitement isn't quite the same for Biden and Harris.

Let's not forget that history is written by whoever wins. It doesn't

matter who said it first, it's true. Take for example the convictions in the Russian investigation that have been overturned because Bill Barr is running the United States Justice Department in a political manner.

It's difficult in these days of political division to see the landscape for what it is. We live in our bubbles and sub-bubbles. This makes it easy for people to be manipulated by foreign governments and special interest groups. It's easy to stay home and not vote because Bernie Sanders or Elizabeth Warren didn't win the nomination, or not vote at all because no matter how much you don't like Trump, Biden just doesn't do it for you.

Former Trump Security advisor H.R. McMaster says that "they [the Russians] had a whole disinformation campaign ready to go to say that the election was rigged" once Hillary Clinton was elected. You better believe they will do the same if Biden wins.

Biden needs to win big. If not, the election will be stolen by any number of factors -- foreign disinformation campaigns, Proud Boys at the polls, the Supreme Court sans Ruth Bader Ginsburg, or Trump (recovered from COVID-19) refusing to step down.

This ain't over yet. History has yet to be written.

# Words From The New Public Health And Medicine Club

By Christiny Celesti & Olivia Olmo

*Guest Contributors*

**What is PHaM, and what does it stand for?**

PHaM is a diverse group of individuals who help create a dialogue around the importance of public health among pre-health students, health professionals, and our ever-changing communities. PHaM stands for Public Health and Medicine. Despite what many may think, both disciplines work hand-in-hand to protect the health of our communities. As members, we consider ourselves a “PHaMily,” working with one another to educate the community about public health through advocacy, volunteering, and community outreach.

**When and why was PHaM created?**

PHaM was created in February 2020. Yes, that’s right, we are a brand-new club, entering our second semester working for students, by students! Public health is a multifaceted discipline, and we aim to address the social issues affecting disadvantaged communities, women of color, minorities, victims of violence, and the homeless population through the lens of public health and medicine. We foster collaborations with physicians, community organizations, and resources in hopes of providing the tools, opportunities, and relationships needed for aspiring health professionals at Brooklyn College. As a PHaMily, we try to create a space

of inclusivity, where our members feel safe surrounded by other students with similar interests.

**What kind of events does PHaM organize? What events do you have in store for this semester?**

We host events that provide opportunities to interact, listen, and gain advice from professionals within the field of Public Health and Medicine. Last semester, (Spring 2020), we had many events in store for our members, including hosting a mental-health first-aid training in collaboration with the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, a panel to introduce students to the multidisciplinary field of public health, and a film screening of the documentary *Bending the Arc* (2017), in partnership with the Boston-based global nonprofit, Partners in Health. But with the closing of Brooklyn College only a month after PHaM’s launch, we had to adapt to the “new normal.” We continued to bring interactive virtual events to our members, and plan to do the same, if not more, this fall. In addition to virtual events, we also hope to bring socially-distanced volunteer opportunities and in-person events in the upcoming months.

This semester, for example, we’re working on hosting an in-person coat drive -- while maintaining social distancing, of course! We’re also in the process of setting up a book club that will foster discussions about various aspects of public health. Additionally, we hope to invite public professionals



Public Health and Medicine Club, a new BC club. / @bc.phamclub on Instagram

to speak to our members. And there’s more...

This week Thursday, October 8th, we’re collaborating with the Women of Color on campus to host a Domestic Violence Awareness event. October is Domestic Violence Awareness month and our goal is to shed light on what domestic violence looks like, prevention measures that can be taken to mitigate it, and resources one can turn to.

In November, we plan to collaborate with the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Psychology Club at Brooklyn College to discuss the effects of COVID-19 on mental health -- particularly in communities of color, where there are disproportionate rates of COVID-19.

Throughout this semester, we will host Zoom study-hall sessions and Netflix parties that keep our members engaged while maintaining school work as a priority.

**What types of students will benefit most from your club?**

PHaM’s goal is to expose students who are also interested in health careers (physicians, nurses, radiologists, etc.) to social-justice issues that impact the system. PHaM welcomes students from many different disciplines. Students who are interested in the multidisciplinary approach of Public Health and exploring what Public Health has to offer will benefit from PHaM. Oftentimes, it may be difficult to find a support system throughout the grueling

process of medical-school applications. Therefore, our mission is to offer students programming and networking opportunities that can potentially lead to successful matriculation to Postgraduate schools. Through social-media and email outreach, we are working to keep our members up-to-date on resources and events that address everything, from personal-statement writing techniques and women’s health to the effects of COVID-19 through the lens of frontline workers and internship opportunities.

*Christiny Celestin is the President of PHaM, and Olivia Olmo is the Secretary*



# The Best Football Team in New York May Be The Buffalo Bills

By Jose Rohdin  
Staff Writer

The Buffalo Bills are 4-0 for the first time since the 2008 season and are playing like serious Super Bowl contenders. And with the Patriots loss on Monday, this is the most the team has led the AFC East Division by since 1995.

Since taking the head coaching job for the Bills in 2017, Sean McDermott has steadily rebuilt the team. In his rookie head coaching season, 2017-18, he led the Bills to a 9-7 record to make the playoffs for the first time since 1999. They would lose to the Jacksonville Jaguars, but McDermott solidified himself as a premier head coach.

McDermott is a defensive-minded head coach, and that comes out in his team. In his first season, the defense was one of the best in the league, only allowing more than 20 points in three games. Even in 2018/19, when the Bills missed the playoffs and went 6-10, the defense was dominant, allowing the National Football League's second-fewest yards.

The issue had been the offense the first two seasons of McDermott's tenure. With Tyrod Taylor as the primary

starting quarterback and then a rookie Josh Allen, the Bills offense never really matched up to their defense.

However, in Allen's sophomore season, last year, the Bills defense would be the clear number-two defense in the entire NFL behind the New England Patriots, being second in points allowed and third in yards allowed.

On top of that, the offense seemed to finally click a little, no longer being one of the league's worst offenses. This resulted in a playoff berth against the Houston Texans, though the Bills would lose in overtime.

This all brings us to the most significant move that the Bills have made under McDermott, the trade for star wide receiver Stefon Diggs. Allen had shown promise as a passer but still looked as if he had a way to go. Trading for Diggs theoretically could make Allen a better quarterback because now there would be a number one receiver on the team.

Diggs is one of the best deep-ball route runners in the NFL, and along with Allen's cannon for an arm (arguably only rivaled by Aaron Rodgers and Patrick Mahomes), Allen can get

the ball downfield with ease. The issue has just always been his accuracy, he averaged around 55 percent completion rate in his first two seasons.

With no way to tell for sure if it is because of Diggs, improvement in accuracy, or both, Allen, through the first four games of the season, is throwing at a 70 percent completion rate. Something must have finally sparked for Allen, and he is playing the best ball of his career right now. Allen is second in passing yards in the league at 1,326, and second in touchdowns at 12, and has only thrown one interception.

Diggs' stats are also off the chart. He is tied for first in the league in receiving yards at 403. This shows that Allen has put his trust in Diggs to be his number one receiver. Along with that, Diggs has also been the biggest downfield threat in the NFL. He is tied for first in both receptions over 20- and 40-yards.

This new offensive duo between Allen and Diggs has made the Bills offense one of the best in the league. They rank fifth in total points and sixth in total yards.

On the other hand, the offense still has one



Sean McDermott, head coach of the Buffalo Bills./ Getty Images/Brett Carlsen

small hole, the run game. Sophomore running back, Devin Singletary, is an outstanding receiving back, who can be an excellent outside-run running back. This basically makes Allen the second running back to do most of the running between the tackles. But with Allen's tendency to fumble, this could be a problem, along with the fact that with a running quarterback, who likes contact like Allen, injuries are always a possibility.

With the offense and the defense finally on the same page, and Allen looking like a different quarterback, the Bills could make a push for the Super Bowl. The unfortunate thing is they play in the AFC and would likely have to go through the Baltimore Ravens and the Kansas City Chiefs in the playoffs, which might be two of the few teams actually better than the Bills so far this season.

## Vinny The Goat by Mo Muhsin and Gabrielle Toro Vivoni





# Who The Nets Can Take In Round 1

By Elijah Hamilton  
*Staff Writer*

One of the many exciting teams coming into the 2020-21 NBA Season has to be the Brooklyn's own Nets.

There is a lot of hype surrounding this team as they get their big free-agent signing from the 2019 offseason back in Kevin Durant. Both NBA Champions, Durant and Kyrie Irving will be on the floor for the first time together to team with a roster of exciting young NBA players. And yet still, another exciting piece to the Nets 2020-21 season is who they will take in this year's NBA Draft.

This year, the Brooklyn Nets hold the 19th pick, a pick swapped around having been initially owned by the Philadelphia 76ers and the Los Angeles

Clippers. There are many young, exciting prospects outside the lottery that could potentially get their name called in November for the Brooklyn Nets.

One common player on every big board projected to go to Brooklyn is sophomore forward out of Villanova, Saddiq Bey, who showed massive potential during his time in the Big East.

He is a six-foot-eight wing who can catch and shoot, to go along with a seven-foot wingspan. Bey showed flashes of becoming a deadly floor-spacer during his sophomore season; he averaged 42 percent from 3 point territory. Bey can potentially slide in at either wing spot and become a significant piece to the Nets offense as a floor-spacer.

Another exciting player who is projected to go to the Nets is the sophomore point guard, Kira Lewis Jr, out of Alabama. The six-foot-three Bama guard is an athletic playmaker who dominated the game with lightning quickness. Along with threatening speed, Lewis showed flashes of being an excellent scorer with great touch.

During his time in Alabama, he averaged 15.8 points per game on 44 percent from the field, to go along with 4 assists. Lewis Jr. can prove to be a quality backup point guard in the league and play some good minutes for the Nets. His game can only grow and improve as he has time to learn from Kyrie Irving and Spencer Dinwiddie.

Nets can also draft and stash players overseas, and



Saddiq Bey, Villanova star who may land in Brooklyn./  
**Sideline Photos**

one of the international talents who the Nets can possibly get is Barcelona wing, Leonardo Bolmaro. He is a six-foot-six wing who is a solid playmaker, who signed a three-year contract with his team in Barcelona and can stay there and develop his skills further.

The most exciting addition for the Nets entering 2021 is clearly Kevin Durant and his

pairing with Kyrie Irving. However, the ability to add more depth in the draft for a team expected to contend for a championship, makes this a very exciting offseason for the Nets and Nets fans as they await the announcement of next season.

## NBA Finals: Lakers Up 3-1

By Conrad Hoyt  
*Sports Editor*

The Lakers took a commanding 3-1 series lead against the Miami Heat in the NBA Finals Tuesday night. They clinched game four 102-96 in a close-fought battle, as what most saw as the most competitive game of the finals thus far.

Anthony Davis put on a stellar defensive performance, defending Jimmy Butler and managing four blocks in the game.

Both the Lakers and the Heat have had impressive showings in this series so far, most prominently LA's commanding game one victory, going on a 75-30 run in that affair, and Miami's game three victory, where star Jimmy Butler recorded a 40-point triple double.

Butler is one of only three players ever to accomplish such a feat, one other being LeBron James, but Butler also became the first player ever to outperform LeBron in a finals game in points, rebounds, and assists, including any of James' teammates. Butler's performance was historic, and the Lakers committed one of the biggest sins a favorite can do in any sport series: they gave the undermanned underdogs hope.

So where do we stand going into game five? What looked like a sure-fire sweep after games one and two now looks like anything but. The Heat seemed to figure out how to disrupt the Lakers, and more specifically, Anthony Davis' flow in game three, who looked absolutely unstoppable in

the first two games.

Though Davis' early foul trouble did help the Heat out in this strategy, his aggression was clearly compromised by not wanting to pick up an offensive foul. Whereas Davis tallied 34 points and nine rebounds in game one, and 32 points and 14 rebounds in game two, he only put up 15 and five in game three. His plus/minus, sometimes a misleading stat, does not seem to be this time, as he was a -26 in this game, while in the first two games he was a +23 and +10, respectively.

Davis and LeBron -- perhaps more so the former -- were both sloppy from the onset of game three. The Heat played with more urgency, and even though Davis had to be pulled after picking up two early fouls, his plus/

minus in the game was indicative of how even when he was on the floor, he was not his usual self.

Game four stayed close in the first half, with the Lakers leading 49-47. Anthony Davis had eight points and six rebounds, and LeBron had eight of his own points to go along with four assists. However, LeBron also had five turnovers in the first half, a bad look for such a superstar, especially one who was uncharacteristically sloppy in the previous game.

But James turned it around in the second half, dictating the tempo and scoring 20 points. Davis as well showed his impact on the game beyond simply numbers, which is a critique star players often hear. You can put up gaudy numbers, but

can you find out a way to get your team the win in those crucial, decisive moments?

The Lakers will head into Friday's game five with a must-win mentality. Beyond just wanting to get out of the bubble, they know they are getting The Heat's best shot, and it would be unwise to give Miami confidence.

This Finals has been extraordinary to watch because of the matchups, the stardom, the role players coming up big, and the coaching adjustments. Keep in mind: Miami only lost three games total in the playoffs before this round against the Lakers. And on the other side, the Lakers have yet to play a team as well-coached and led as this Heat squad is. Friday is sure to be a historic night.