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**THE BROOKLYN COLLEGE**

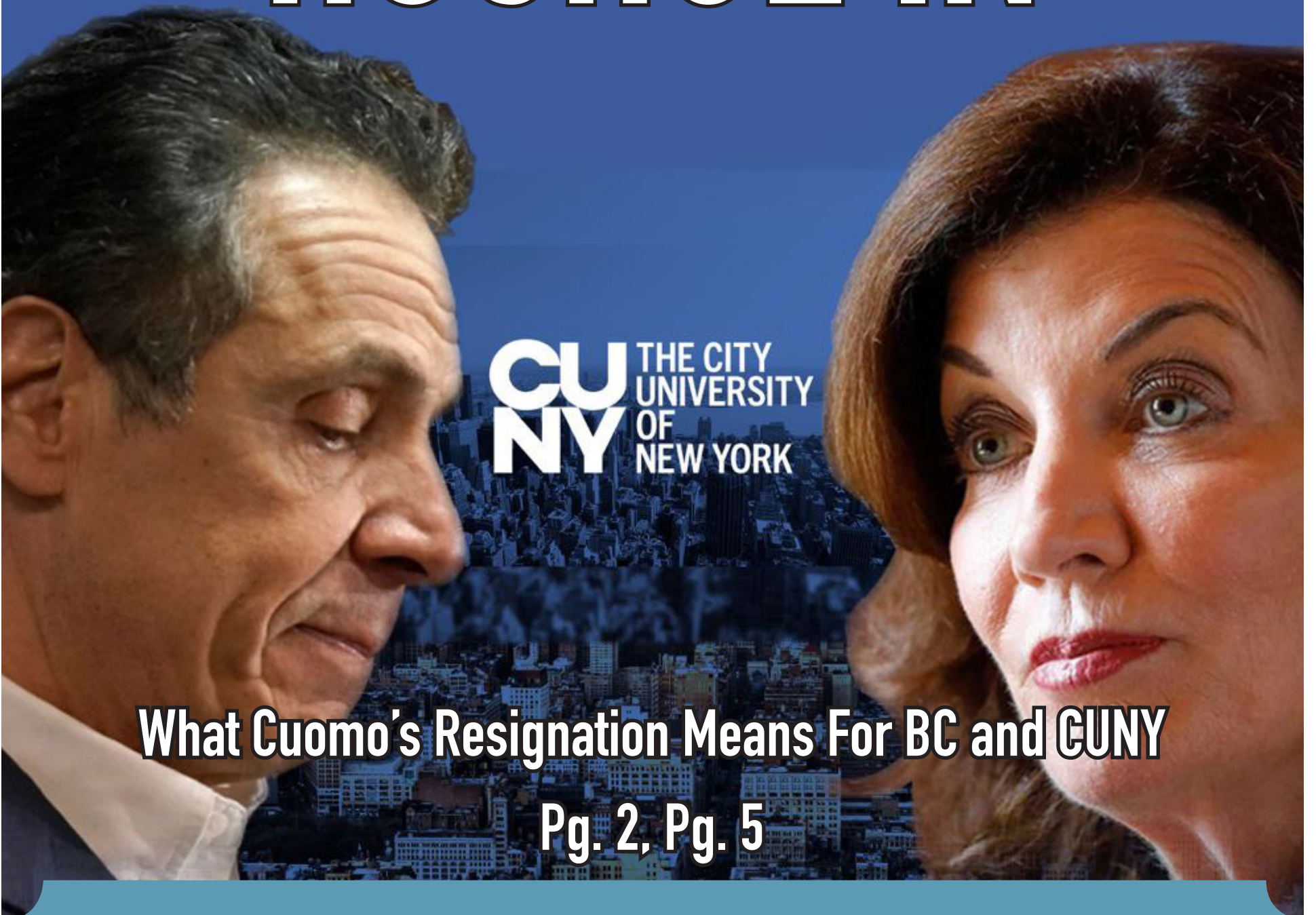
# **VANGUARD**

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## **CUOMO OUT, HOCHUL IN'**



**CUNY** THE CITY  
UNIVERSITY  
OF  
NEW YORK

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# BC's Campus Reentry Protocol

By Stavroula Stathopoulos  
*Staff Writer*

CUNY has taken massive efforts to curtail the spread of COVID-19, mandating students taking in-person classes to provide vaccine verification or take weekly COVID-tests until they are fully vaccinated. Unvaccinated students, however, will not be allowed on campus starting Oct. 8., and will face academic withdrawal that could impact their financial aid and make them ineligible for course refunds.

All BC students must submit their vaccination documentation by Sept. 27, per CUNY guidelines. To meet the approaching deadline, students had to receive their first Moderna shot by Aug. 26, or their first Pfizer shot by Sept. 2. Those opting for the single-dose Johnson & Johnson must be vaccinated by Sept. 23. Proof must be uploaded by Sept. 27 for the college to process and approve the documents by Oct. 7.

To get on campus, unvaccinated students must show a campus pass after testing negative for COVID each week, while vaccinated students are required to show their VaxPass on the “Everbridge” app at one of Brooklyn College’s three access points. On the campus’s west side,



students can enter at the vehicular gate on Avenue H or the Roosevelt entrance on Bedford Avenue. Another access point is through the Whitehead doors on Campus Road.

Regardless of vaccination status, all students, staff, faculty, and visitors are required to wear masks inside school buildings after The New York State Department of Health filed an emergency regulation on Aug. 27. As of last week, all offices should have picked up their ‘Return to Campus’ supply kits. These kits contained disposable and reusable masks, desktop and personal use hand sanitizer, single-use sanitizing wipes, a COVID-19 tip sheet for maintaining a healthy

**Courtesy Brooklyn College**  
workplace, and office signs to promote public health precautions.

Faculty and staff are required to maintain six feet of physical distance when they are together in offices. Brooklyn College has purposefully created a rotational work schedule for staff and faculty to ensure that members can practice social distancing. BC administrators urge faculty and staff to speak up if they don’t think they’ll have six feet of distance from other employees.

Brooklyn College President Michelle Anderson made it clear in her 15th “Return to Campus” letter that students, faculty, or staff cannot come to campus if they tested positive in the

past 10 days or experience COVID-19 symptoms within the last 48 hours. Those in contact with someone who is suspected or has tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 10 days, are not allowed on campus. Anderson wrote that anyone entering campus must show a valid entry pass.

BC has opened up an Inquiry and Report Forum for everyone on campus to ask questions, express concerns, make suggestions, and file complaints on the college’s campus reentry plans. To report a problem on campus that needs immediate attention, Anderson encourages Brooklyn College members to call Public Safety at (718) 951-5511.

# New Gov. Kathy Hochul’s Potential Impact On CUNY

By Matt Hirsch  
*News Editor*

After the resignation of Andrew Cuomo at midnight on Aug. 24, Governor Kathy Hochul was sworn in as the 57th Governor of New York. Hochul served as representative for New York’s 26th District from 2011 to 2013 and was elected Lieutenant Governor in 2015. As the first woman to serve as the state’s governor, Hochul’s progressive politics could have a lasting impact for CUNY.

Hochul led the “Enough is Enough” campaign during her time as Lieutenant Governor, where she traveled to SUNY and CUNY campuses to spread awareness about sexual violence on college grounds.

“We want to give survivors of sexual assault the option to tell their story,” said Hochul in an interview with the Genesee Country Express in 2016. “Some do not like going forward and having the public attention on them... They need to know there is a nurturing environment of administrators that are trained and will listen and understand.”

At the hands of former Governor Cuomo and



his appointed Budget Director, Robert Mujica, CUNY has seen its budget slashed. Hochul has a chance to reverse course and sign Senate Bill S4461, “The New Deal For CUNY.” The proposed bill would make tuition free for all in-state CUNY undergrads, increase the number of mental health counselors and academic advisors, and decrease bloated class sizes. “The New Deal For CUNY” is currently in Committee and

**Governor Kathy Hochul./Cindy Schultz of Reuters**  
is co-sponsored by Kevin S. Parker, representative for the 21st Senate District of New York, where Brooklyn College is located.

In the 2018 Lieutenant Governor general election, Hochul’s campaign website stated, “Kathy and the Governor [Cuomo] fought hard to make SUNY and CUNY schools tuition free for every middle class family,” according to Ballotpedia. This fight manifested as

the Excelsior Scholarship, a program that allows students from families who earn less than \$125,000 a year to attend CUNY and SUNY colleges tuition-free. Recipients would have to reside and work in New York for the number of years they received the scholarship.

If Governor Hochul sticks to her guns and follows suit with her trend of supporting public services, it could mean an overhaul of the CUNY landscape.



# CUNY Aids NYC COVID Recovery

By Hifza Hameed

Staff Writer

CUNY Recovery Corps, a CUNY program in collaboration with the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP), employed over 4,000 students this summer. The program gave priority to those most affected by the pandemic, including students that are currently or have been part of the foster care system, face homelessness or are in danger of being homeless, live in public housing, and are from New York City’s hardest-hit neighborhoods.

The idea behind this project in hopes of CUNY Recovery Corps not only helping working was to give opportunities class students, but to better to students ages 18-24 local communities in the from nineteen different process.

CUNY colleges. As a result, CUNY Recovery Corps students are working employers to students with on projects to support unique skills. Students small businesses, public worked twenty-five hours health organizations, per week at \$15 an hour. community-based They were also able to nonprofits, government explore different career agencies and schools,” options and gain experience CUNY Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez released in a statement. “CUNY At the same time, NYC gained over students are making 4,000 workers to give the history by reviving, economy’s wheels another renewing and rebuilding push. City officials funded NYC...”



CUNY Aids NYC COVID Recovery./CUNY

# Local BK Haiti Relief Drive

By Matt Hirsch

News Editor

After the assassination of President Jovenel Moise, a 7.2-magnitude earthquake that killed over 2,200 people, and the impact of Tropical Storm Grace, Haiti is in desperate need of aid. On Sunday, Aug. 29, Brooklyn College’s own Tanger Hillel helped spread the word about a relief drive at the Flatbush Jewish Center (FJC) organized by the United Jewish Appeal Federation of New York

(UJA). FJC Executive Director Leah Seltzer told The Vanguard about a hundred volunteers sorted, packed, and loaded over 5,600 pounds of medical supplies. All supplies were donated to New York State Assembly member Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn’s collection campaign.

Assemblymember Bichotte Hermelyn spoke at the event to express her gratitude for the community’s relief efforts for Haiti. “People have no homes,

people are hungry, people are dying, people are injured,” she said. “And so it is with great honor to have people like [UJA] and so many other organizations who have come out and pour their heart, their dollars, and their supplies to the people of Haiti who are suffering.”

Relief for Haiti is an ongoing effort and those interested in donating can contact Assembly member Bichotte Hemelyn’s office at [bichotter@nyassembly.gov](mailto:bichotter@nyassembly.gov) or 718-940-0428.



Courtesy of Flatbush Jewish Center on Facebook

THE VANGUARD

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# CUNY Reacts: American Troops Withdrawn From Afganistan

By Gabriela Flores  
*Editor-In-Chief*

With American troops having finally withdrawn from Afghanistan on Aug. 31, the 20-year-long war has come to an end. But in the process, thousands of Americans, Afghan allies and citizens, scrambled to evacuate the nation as the militant Taliban rapidly seized control over Afghanistan's major cities. For many at CUNY and across the world, the withdrawal, and violence that surged, became a clear humanitarian crisis.

“The scenes unfolding in Afghanistan are heartbreaking to watch,” tweeted CUNY Chancellor Felix Matos on Aug. 16, a day after Afghan President Ashraf Ghani fled the country as the Taliban took over the capital city of Kabul. “CUNY remains committed to supporting our Afghan students, staff, and faculty who make up a vital part of our diverse community. Our thoughts are with them and their loved ones in the difficult time that lies ahead.”

Though it was no surprise to many CUNY professors that the Taliban would seize control over Afghanistan, the pace at which they did, over the course of 10 days, was unexpected. “What is frightening and unprecedented is the speed with which the Taliban took over,” said College of Staten Island Professor Saadia Toor.

Talks between the

US and Taliban on America's withdrawal began back in late 2018, according to The New York Times. Though the Taliban has made promises of reforming its rhetoric that previously oppressed women and minorities, many at CUNY are doubtful that they will see their word through. When it first began controlling Afghanistan in 1994, the Taliban were very much like the terrorist group ISIS, Brooklyn College Professor Dena Motevalian told The Vanguard.

“They claim that they are bringing pure Islam from 1400 years ago, which is a very wrong interpretation of Islam and how it was presented,” Motevalian said. Having worked with Afghan and Iranian refugees as a case manager, Motevalian heard of the Taliban's attacks on Afghan citizens and allies who had affiliations with the US. In one case, a woman came to her after her father, who was a translator for American troops, was killed with a hammer by the Taliban in his own home.

“It just demonstrates how the Taliban brings violence to the streets and to its people. So it is very frightening,” said the BC professor. “It's very understandable that everyone wants to evacuate and whoever can, and has the resources, wants to evacuate the country.”

The Biden administration's evacuation plans faced much scrutiny, as it was not guaranteed that Afghan allies



US service members carrying the casket of a soldier killed in the terrorist attack on Hamid Karzai International Airport./ U.S. Marines via ZUMA Press Wire Ser

who aided American troops would be evacuated.

“The least that the US should have done was to have a plan and a will to evacuate the people who work with it,” Professor Toor said.

As of press time, over 114,000 people have been evacuated through the combined efforts of the United States and allying nations. However, with reports of some American planes leaving half-empty and Afghan refugees falling to their deaths after clinging to departing planes, many thought that Biden could have done more ahead of time.

“I really have to lay the blame at the feet of the administration. I think there was time to prepare and there was such a failure to do so,” Professor Felipe De La Hoz from the Newmark Graduate School of Journalism told The Vanguard.

When evacuations first began on Aug. 14, the United

States was not paroling Afghan allies and citizens, which would have streamlined the process of leaving Afghanistan as quickly as possible, De La Hoz explained. It wasn't until Aug. 26, a little less than a week before US troops withdrew, that President Biden implemented humanitarian parole.

“I think it's good that they opened it up, but it might ultimately be a little bit too little too late,” De La Hoz said, noting that each application also costs \$500 per applicant. Aside from parole, Biden also created Program Priority 2 Designation (P-2 Program) for those who were in danger for their US affiliation but did not qualify for a Special Immigrant Visa. However, there was no consular staff available for applicants to have their forms processed, De La Hoz said.

“It's not really clear that these steps are really going to be helpful in this kind of space. The time things should have been

done would've been months ago,” he said.

As many Afghan refugees were resettled into neighboring nations like Qatar, their future and that of Afghanistan remains unclear. In the coming months, refugees looking to permanently settle in the United States are likely to undergo a lengthy waiting game, while those who remained in Afghanistan will continue living under Taliban rule. Though the US's withdrawal from Afghanistan stirred much controversy, violence, and trauma, Professor Motevalian noted that it is important to focus on Afghanistan's situation beyond whether it was right or wrong for America to leave.

“I think we shouldn't look at whether America's withdrawal was a good idea or a bad idea. I think the beginning was problematic and we should have been waiting for this,” said Motevalian. “It was predictable.”

# Brooklyn College Alum and Renowned Historian Donald Kagan Passes Away at 89

By Radwan Farraj  
*Staff Writer*

Most known for his work on classical Greek history and as an outspoken academic of Western studies, Brooklyn College Alumnus Donald Kagan passed away at the age of 89 on Aug. 6.

Kagan's best known work is his series on the Peloponnesian War, followed by his works on both World Wars and the Cuban Missile Crisis. For Kagan, each period held significance for our present

day, as he believed these conflicts demonstrated human nature and how we act in times of peace and war.

A study of the Peloponnesian War is a source of wisdom about the behavior of human beings under the enormous pressures imposed by war, plague, and civil strife,” wrote Kagan in 2003 in “The Peloponnesian War,” a one-volume history of the conflict and “the potentialities of leadership and the limits within which it must inevitably operate.”

Kagan was born in Kursenai, Lithuania on May 1, 1932 but grew up in Brownsville, Brooklyn after moving to the United States with his mother at the age of two. He graduated from BC in 1954 as the first of his family to attend college. Then in 1955, he graduated from Brown University with a M.A. in classics. By 1958, he graduated from Ohio State University with a Ph.D. in history.

In 2000, he co-authored a book titled “While America Sleeps”



Donald Kagan./Michael Marsland of Yale University

the Humanities presented by President George W. Bush. Kagan is survived by his sons Robert and Frederick. His wife, Myrna Dabrusky, passed away in 2017.

Kagan received the National Humanities Medal in 2002 from the National Endowment for



# BC Reacts: Cuomo's Resignation



Former Governor Andrew Cuomo./Byron Smith of Getty Images

By Serin Sarsour  
*Features Editor*

After being investigated for sexual assault by New York's Attorney General Letitia James, former Governor Andrew Cuomo resigned his position and officially left office on Aug. 24. Many of the accusers who came out to tell their stories were women who worked in the past for Cuomo or New York State. Cuomo has denied these allegations and publicly apologized if his past comments to the women came off as "sexually charged," according to AP News.

Since then, the news has traveled throughout Brooklyn College with many students and professors reacting differently to Cuomo's resignation, but the general consensus is that he

had to leave.

"I am glad he resigned, and I think the investigation should continue to see if there are criminal charges," said Jason, a Brooklyn College Television, Radio & Emerging Media professor who did not want to share his last name. Jason discovered the news of Cuomo's decision to resign through "general mass media, but mostly NYT (New York Times) and NPR (National Public Radio)."

"I'm glad he's gone, he should have left months ago," said another Brooklyn College Television, Radio & Emerging Media professor, who wished to remain anonymous. "Though, I find his nursing home scandal to be way worse. He let people die and covered it up. That should have people more up in

arms."

Last spring, Cuomo implemented a state requirement to "force nursing homes to take back residents who had been hospitalized with COVID-19 once they recovered," reported The New York Times. After many people criticized his nursing home plan because they believed that it would only raise COVID-19 cases and deaths, Cuomo neglected to include the real COVID-death toll in nursing homes to avoid further scrutiny. Cuomo justified his decision by claiming that he was worried that the former Trump Administration would use the actual data against him, per ABC News. As a result, Cuomo and his administration are in the process of being investigated by the Federal Bureau

of Investigation for distributing false counts of nursing home resident deaths to the Justice Department.

"He lost the confidence of everyone," added the anonymous BC professor.

Additionally, a BC sophomore named Miad, who did not want to share her last name, said she agrees with Cuomo's decision to step down as governor.

"Once you've been outed as somebody who abuses your authority, you should not have that authority anymore," said Miad.

On the other hand, a BC sophomore who wished to remain anonymous believes that Cuomo is "innocent until proven guilty" in regards to the sexual harassment accusations. However, he thinks that the governor's nursing home scandal gave

enough grounds for his resignation.

"I expect full transparency, and it further fuels the distrust in the government," said the anonymous BC student.

After Cuomo's resignation, Kathy Hochul, who served as Lieutenant Governor since 2015, was appointed to his position as the 57th Governor of New York. Hochul is the state's first female governor. Though it was not a surprise that Hochul would replace Cuomo, members of the Brooklyn College community are unsure what her administration has in store. Still, many are hoping for the best.

"I know next to nothing about her, but I'm happy to see NY has a woman governor for the first time," said Jason.

REA C



# BC Involvement Fair Continues Virtually

By Mary Zakharova  
Staff Writer

Many Brooklyn College clubs introduced themselves to students remotely at the BC Virtual Involvement Fair on Aug. 31. Despite campus opening back up, all the clubs are still functioning remotely, but they are planning on getting back to campus as soon as possible.

Among the clubs present were Stuck In The Library, the Anthropology Club, the Computer Science Club, the Psychology Club, and many more.

Stuck In the Library, a club that publishes two magazines--one on short stories and another one on poetry--welcomes any and all CUNY students who want to get into creative writing. During COVID-19, however, the club had to change their format. Last semester, for instance, they only published one magazine, and it was uploaded on their website as opposed to before COVID when it was printed and placed on stands.

"The number of submissions wasn't affected in that sense, but we had to reduce what we published," Mariyah Rajshahiwal, the club's president, told The Vanguard.

Because of COVID-restrictions, Stuck In the Library was unable to host publication events nor attend other campus events, which all of the members miss dearly. "It was a great time to see the magazine for the first time straight off the printer and celebrating what we got done that semester," added Rajshahiwal.

"I have fun memories of when we had physical fairs in the Quad, and it was always a lot of people there," said Roksana Jasiewicz, the club's content editor. "It was a great experience for the club just to get together physically on campus with posters, and we had a big turnout at the physical fair."

On that same

note, Samia Ahmed, the Anthropology Club's vice president, also expressed how challenging it was to function remotely and without in-person events and meetings. Nonetheless, Ahmed was pleased with the virtual fair's turnout.

"I would say it's a bit more difficult than when we were in person, but regardless many students came by today to visit and talk," said Ahmed, who thinks students were more motivated to come this year compared to last year. "I think in general people were not ready to get involved with clubs. I feel like they were hesitant last year, it was overwhelming with work and also COVID. We were all learning what's happening, so they didn't feel motivated to go to clubs. But people are more prepared or ecstatic to be more involved now."

For the Anthropology Club, like many others, this marks their second year participating in the Virtual Involvement Fair so they had time to prepare, get used to the format, and learn how to communicate effectively. "We realized how the presentation works, keeping it short and simple," added Ahmed.

The Anthropology Club has a WhatsApp group chat to connect with its members, which according to Ahmed, is very easy to use when the club operates remotely.

Similarly, for the Computer Club, the Discord chat was very helpful to reach out to others.

"We have a very active Discord online, and basically even before we went to quarantine, it was the main way to communicate with members, so promotion and stuff like that would happen through Discord as it does now," said Anastasia Gusenkov, the secretary of the club.

Even in summer, when the club wasn't very active, Discord was the best way to communicate and recruit new members, some of which are just starting at



Virtual Involvement Fair promotional image./ BC SAIL Center

Brooklyn College and have not been able to visit the campus yet.

"With the whole virtual situation I feel like it might be hard for our freshmen and incoming students because they might be a little lost, so we are also trying to put freshmen and incoming students in one category, and seniors in another category so we can provide relevant resources in support to them," added Mahnoor Bibi, a member of the club.

Even though the club is trying to come up with ideas of how to keep members active, a lot of the students are still feeling the lack of in-person communication. Oleksandra, the club connector, said that her crew had a Hackathon, an

event that was planned fully online, and it was there that this disconnect became especially evident.

"Although it was a very exciting event, I feel like many of us still lack this presence," said Oleksandra. "We are doing well, but we are struggling a little bit, because it's always better to meet with the community in person. We are hoping that the situation will resolve, maybe in spring."

Adriana Rodriguez, the president of the Psychology Club, also felt both the challenge of trying to connect with all the club members during the pandemic, as well as reaching new people.

"Trying to get people connected and joining our meetings was a little tougher...we didn't know

how to advertise it as much, because usually in Quad it's like, 'Join, join, join.' And they will come, but in virtual, we'd have to find ways to promote it in advance, promote it every hour, something like that," said Rodriguez.

Since last year, however, Rodriguez is now confident in the club's ability to attract more people to join.

"It was harder, but it's getting much easier now, and I'm learning more and more every day," added Rodriguez. "Me and my e-board were talking about it a week in advance, about how to promote it, and how to do it, and step by step how to continue it so this semester, it was much easier...we saw so many faces today."



# BC Students On Returning To Campus

By John Schilling  
*Managing Editor*

Reporting Assistance by  
Gabriela Flores  
and Serin Sarsour  
*Editor-In-Cheif*  
& *Features Editor*

With classes returning to an in-person format, it would seem as if Brooklyn College may finally be going back to normal after a year and half of most classes running online due to COVID-19. For some students, this has been a step in the right direction as their Brooklyn College experience so far has been limited to zoom.

This was the case for Amaya Belcher, a political science major at Brooklyn College who had never stepped foot on campus until the semester began last week.

“Being a college student with the idea of going to class, was something I didn’t have to do for the past two years,” Belcher told The Vanguard. “I went from just being in-person in high school, to being in front of my laptop for hours a day.”

For Belcher, this was not all bad as she felt safer at home, but she couldn’t help but feel that she was missing out. “The whole thing I missed during quarantine was being in the classroom, kind of bouncing off my fellow students and my teacher,” said Belcher. “I would be able to ask questions or have a really good discussion about what we’re learning.”

This feeling also rings true for Alexandria Woolfe, a junior majoring in journalism and film at Brooklyn College.

“You are not as encouraged to ask

questions on zoom. You’re a bit more nervous,” she said. But with in-person classes, Woolfe explains, it’s a complete 180. “You hear other people’s thoughts speaking aloud, then you see other people and what they’re writing. I think being in a classroom setting is also good mentally as well.”

For sophomore Musa Esa, in-person classes enable him to have a better learning experience that just can’t be replicated over zoom. But, since all his classes are virtual this semester, he prefers to go outside of his home and onto the Brooklyn College campus. “I’m more of a visual learner. I like being face-to-face more than online,” Esa said. “I just do my online classes in the library because I need some fresh air.”

Both Belcher and Woolfe were excited to return to campus this fall for classes, but they remain concerned for their safety and of those around them.

“There are people in my family who are more likely to get it, so it’s a very scary thing to be back on campus. But I was excited to be back on campus, and my family was happy for me,” said Belcher. “I do have those concerns because it’s not like COVID went away. It’s still here.”

As the delta variant keeps spreading, Woolfe became concerned that many on campus wouldn’t want to wear a mask. “I understand that the mask makes it a little hard to breathe at times, but as long as we’re wearing them we’re doing our part,” she said.

With that in mind, Woolfe felt comfortable enrolling in an in-person Television, Radio and Emerging Media course



Students returned to campus for the first time on Aug. 25./Brooklyn College

for this semester, and she was eager to see how Brooklyn College would handle the safety protocols. So far, she has been pleased with the measures and thinks the Everbridge VaxPass requirement is what sets Brooklyn College apart in regards to safety.

“I think it’s safer than what the rest of the city is trying to do in terms of making sure everyone is vaccinated, because you know, a lot of people are trying to fake their vaccination cards instead of getting the vaccine,” Woolfe added.

For Belcher, however, this process was far from straightforward in the beginning. On her first day of in-person class, she headed to campus with her Brooklyn College ID in hand but did not realize she needed the VaxPass. Belcher also did not know that there were certain checkpoints that provided access to campus. When she arrived, Belcher saw a large group of students crowding near the campus and noticed the

main gates were closed.

“If I knew beforehand, I would’ve taken care of it a while ago,” she said. “It seems as though they sent the email while I was on campus, which at that point, it was pointless to me.”

In spite of recent challenges, Brooklyn College’s administration has been providing regular updates about returning to campus through email, social media, and the Brooklyn College website. In April, Brooklyn College President Michelle Anderson began penning “Return to Campus” letters with updates concerning requirements and what was being done to ensure a safe return to BC.

“Safety is our highest priority. We strictly follow or exceed guidance from city and state health officials and CUNY,” Ronald Jackson, the Vice President of Student Affairs, told The Vanguard. “Remember, people spread COVID-19, not the campus. Therefore, it’s important that each

person who comes on campus does their part to reduce the chance of spreading COVID-19, which includes vaccinations and regular testing.”

To Belcher, Woolfe, Esa, and many students like them, these public health protocols are paramount despite the effect it may have had on their college experiences and sentiments of missing out.

“You’ll kind of look back at it, if you didn’t lose anybody, as ‘Wow, that was crazy.’ If you did, you may not want to remember it,” said Woolfe. “It was traumatic for everyone.”

For Esa, these times where he was apart from BC classrooms will remind him to “try to make every moment count.”

For more information and resources about returning to campus, students are encouraged to check their emails, follow Brooklyn College on social media, and frequently check the Brooklyn College website.



# Theater Dept. Chair Kip Marsh Steps Down

By Michela Arlia  
*Arts Editor*

Just a week before classes were set to begin for the fall, a Theater Department-wide email was sent to students informing them that Department Chairperson Kip (Victor) Marsh will be stepping down from his position.

The email caught most off guard, with the change being effective Aug. 25, the first day of classes for the semester.

“Professor Marsh is grateful for having been able to serve in this capacity since the Fall of 2011 and in reflecting on the past 10 years, is overwhelmed by the accomplishments and progress that the department has achieved as one of the finest theater education and research centers in the country,” the email announcement stated.

Students and staff alike are reflecting on Marsh’s impact on the department in the time he served as chair, and many are grateful for the work he has put in.

“Obviously, I will never fully understand what happens behind the scenes in regards to decisions, sacrifices, paperwork, permissions, and other things that Kip had or has to do to make sure the department stays up and running,” Cody Hom, a BC alumnus and assistant production manager in the department, told The Vanguard. “For that, I will be grateful.”

Replacing Marsh is longtime BC Professor Laura Tesman, the department’s former Undergraduate Deputy Chair.

Tesman, who led the B.A. program since 2008, reached out to students for the first time in her new position in an email sent out on the first day of classes.

“Today I officially step into the role of chair,” wrote Tesman in her address. “I have much to learn but have always enjoyed new adventures, creative challenges, and learning new skills. I can already tell that this position will offer an ample supply of all of these things.”

She continued on to praise her predecessor and all

his accomplishments in the department, promising to build on the foundation that Marsh had started.

“His [Marsh] visionary leadership has expanded the horizons of the department beyond the walls of our beautiful new theater complex, and well beyond our campus gates,” wrote Tesman.

With the shift in administration, students both past and present are eager for a change and are hopeful to see what Tesman will contribute.

“She’s been a great professor and advisor for me ever since I entered the Theater Department, and it’s always been evident to me that she really cares about giving her students the best educational experience she can,” Jeremy Palmieri, a B.A. student in his fifth year, told The Vanguard.

While most look forward to Tesman being chair, a student who wished to remain anonymous for personal reasons weighed both the positives and negatives of her new role.

“I’m happy to finally



Laura Tesman./ Dept of Theater at Brooklyn College



Courtesy Kip Marsh

have a chairperson that I feel that I can reach out to and that isn’t this overarching person that doesn’t talk to any of us or reach out except for formal emails,” said the undergraduate theater student.

The student continued on to say that much more still needs to be done within the department, including more diverse and fair opportunities.

“I’m glad we at least have a woman, but that is the bare minimum,” said the student. “We must continue to hold her to standards better than we have had before. We cannot go back in person to the same Theater Department that was there

before. There needs to be more fundamental change.”

Stepping into Tesman’s previous role of Undergraduate Deputy Chair will be longtime Professor Brian Manuel Simons, who has assisted in the position for the past year.

Tesman left students with final thoughts in her personal message thanking Marsh and instilling hope in students for the future of the department.

“Thank you Kip for the blood, sweat and heart that you have given as our chair,” said Tesman. “We look forward to continuing to build on these strong foundations together.”

# BC Theater Comes Back From COVID-Shutdown With New Season

By Michela Arlia  
*Arts Editor*

Earlier this summer, the Brooklyn College Department of Theater officially unveiled their plans to continue productions for the 2021-2022 season.

In an email sent out to students within the department, eight productions were announced and for the first time in over a year and a half, shows were listed with a venue as the BC theaters seem to be opening up again. This news comes with hope for a more normal production season with live shows and in-person audiences.

The entire season includes six full-length plays: “Small Mouth Sounds” by Bess Wohl and directed by Ann Noling; “Everybody” by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins and directed by Duane Bouttè; “Water by the Spoonful” by Quiara Alegria Hudes and directed by Francisco Solorzano; “Antigone” translated by Anne Carson and directed by Zachary Tomlinson; “By the Way, Meet Vera Stark” by Lynn Notage and directed by Patrick Sabongui;

and “Concord Floral” by Jordan Tannahill and directed by Nicholas Browne. The season will also include a short works festival featuring shorter pieces directed by students within the department, and a one-act festival of shows led by first-year MFA directing students.

“Small Mouth Sounds,” a piece about six runaways who flee city life for the quietness of the deep woods to fight their internal demons and connect with one another, will be opening up the season in mid-October. For the department, finally putting production up has been a relief, after COVID-19 forced everyone to leave their set and costumes just two weeks before opening night.

But while theaters are booked and directors are set for all of the performances, the department’s administration says that nothing is set in stone.

Patrick Sabongui, head of the BFA Acting program, says the plan right now is to have live, in-person performances. He hopes the department will be able to mirror their return to the theater to that of Broadway’s.

The Brooklyn College Department of Theater Presents  
**Bess Wohl's "Small Mouth Sounds"**  
*Mar 27-Apr 1*

**POSTPONED!**  
*New date to be announced.*

**Ticket-holders will be contacted by the Brooklyn College Box Office.**

**Small Mouth Sounds** begins with a note from the playwright: “Everyone in this play is in some kind of agony.” Wohl describes the characters as attempting to learn to stay with their feelings, listen, and be patient. Tasked with a vow of silence at a week-long spiritual retreat, the characters seek to understand exactly how one speaks their mind when they can’t say a word?



“Small Mouth Sounds” will finally take the stage in mid-October./**Brooklyn College Presents**

“Broadway has found ways to welcome audiences back into their seats, and we hope to do the same,” said Sabongui in a statement. “Our priority remains the safety of all of our community members and our audiences, so we will always defer to guidance and protocols from the CDC and CUNY.”

Before stepping down, Kip Marsh, the previous Department of Theater Chairperson, said that the format of production depends on any new guidance from the college that may arise in the coming weeks.

“We are planning on producing our season in the theater spaces in the PAC [Performing Arts Center] in person, and if able in front of an audience,” Marsh wrote in a statement. “We haven’t received any guidance yet from the college as to how or if we will be able to include an audience yet, but hope to have more clarification soon.”

The department has not announced whether they will require audience members to follow the guidelines that students on campus must follow,

such as proof of vaccination, weekly negative COVID tests, or mandatory mask-wearing.

Sabongui says the situation is fluid right now, with things changing daily, but students will be notified of all guidelines as soon as possible. Either way, Sabongui is confident in the department and its mission.

“We will continue to do what theatre has done since its creation,” said Sabongui. “Innovate, adapt and tell stories that reflect and comment on the times.”



# Broadway Returns On High Note With “Pass Over”

By John Schilling  
*Managing Editor*

After a year and a half, in-person performances finally returned to Broadway with *Pass Over*, a play by Antoinette Chinonye Nwandu that focuses on two Black men living in an undisclosed location that is under constant police surveillance.

The play is no doubt a commentary on racial tensions and the police killings of Black Americans, but this production makes clear that the play exists outside of a specific time or place. This is spelled out in the Playbill with the play’s time period listed as “now, right now; but also 1855; but also 13th century BCE,” as well as the place, which reads “a ghetto street; but also a plantation; but also Egypt, a city built by slaves.”

The timelessness of the play is not entirely clear at first as Moses (Jon Michael Hill) and Kitch (Namir Smallwood) communicate with each other using common, everyday street banter and in their interactions with the play’s two white characters Mister and Ossifer (both played by Gabriel Ebert).

As a whole, the three-person cast of Hill, Smallwood, and Ebert is phenomenal, and you can tell right away how vigorous their chemistry is. Through Moses and Kitch, Hill and Smallwood successfully portray two Black men who seek a better life for themselves, or at least one free of the constant fear of the police state they live under. While this is shared between them, the two characters are not carbon copies of each other as Kitch is more open about his fear and the resulting emotions, while Moses remains belligerent to mask his true feelings.

This becomes



L to R: Jon Michael Hill, Gabriel Ebert, and Namir Smallwood in *Pass Over*./Joan Marcus

obvious when Mister passes by the street corner where the two young men reside and offers them food. As the three interact, the play becomes increasingly lighthearted with cracking jokes and even a small musical moment that seems to unite the three. But just when the audience feels as if they can let their guard down and laugh, they are hit with a reality check of racism in America and throughout the world, as well as the role that some white Americans play in enabling it either directly or indirectly.

Gabriel Ebert captures this contrast especially well in his duel portrayals of Mister and Ossifer. Mister is a wealthy gentleman who has never had to pay attention to Black struggles and is alluded to having benefited from them, and the thought of this does not cross his mind until he meets Moses and Kitch. With constant questions of why the two are scared, commentary about their use of the n-word and why he isn’t allowed to say it, and suggesting that

they call the police if they feel threatened, Mister’s ignorance becomes very obvious. He seems to be a reflection of white America turning a blind eye to police brutality and/or allowing the struggles of Black Americans to continue without intervention. Indirect complicity, you could say.

On the other hand, Ebert portrays direct complicity as Ossifer, the police officer who storms onto the scene throughout the play to beat Moses and Kitch for disobedience but only when they act as they normally would. At one point in the play, Ossifer is rather pleasant with Moses and Kitch as the two of them begin to speak and act in a performative way. As soon as they snap, however, Ossifer is quick to turn on them, and this speaks to the racist perceptions of Black Americans that have escalated racial tensions in the United States and across the world for centuries.

While the play relies heavily on this symbolism, it is executed in a way that makes it easy

for audiences to follow and leaves many things open to interpretation. This is especially true for the play’s ending, which Antoinette Chinonye Nwandu re-wrote for the Broadway production.

In past productions, the play ended abruptly and on a rather sad note. But for Broadway, the new ending takes on a more hopeful approach that ties in directly with the play’s title. The words “pass over” initially refer to Moses and Kitch’s goal of escaping life on the streets and obtaining material wealth. By the play’s end, however, “pass over” takes on a more biblical, allegorical meaning with talks of Moses and Kitch ending their suffering and entering paradise, perhaps heaven or another world free of fear.

This symbolism is the play’s strongest and most creative feature, but it also contributes to its shortcomings. As the play begins to wind down, any sense of reality is sort of thrown out the window, and the play begins to

use symbolism in place of reality as opposed to using symbolism as a way of conveying reality. This overreliance on the metaphysical leaves the audience with more questions than answers.

At the same time, many of the play’s aspects are very on-the-nose, relying on highly criticized stereotypes and strong language to make the themes of racial justice, policing, white privilege, white complicity, and white fragility more palpable to the audience. Because of this, the play seems to miss the mark slightly, but it will no doubt start a conversation about the current state of things--a conversation that is long overdue.

These imperfections, however, do not hinder *Pass Over* too much as its strong cast and creative ability to convey heavy material have allowed for Broadway to return on a high note.

*Pass Over* can be seen at the August Wilson Theatre on West 52nd Street through Oct. 10.



# BC Spotlight: Alejandro Marquez Rise Above Pandemic

By Aliyah Jacobson  
Staff Writer

Many know the cliché that parents drill into their children’s heads when starting college: that medicine or law is the best to study since they can lead to stable professions. This became obvious in early 2020, when COVID-19 shut down theaters and canceled live performances.

Despite the challenges, artists during the pandemic were innovative, putting their work online on streaming platforms to lift people’s spirits. Nonetheless, the pandemic seemed to be a roadblock to many artists with similar dreams early on.

This was the case for Alejandro Marquez, a Brooklyn College alumnus originally from Puerto Rico who ended up earning his Master’s in Vocal Performance during these unpredictable times.

Marquez holds his Bachelor’s in Drama from the University of Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras and had heard of Brooklyn College’s music program while studying abroad in Norway, where he was taught by Patricia McCaffrey and Mark Schnaible of the Conservatory of Brooklyn College. “It is an amazing program that is taught in

Norway, Israel and Germany and I got the chance to join the one in Norway,” Marquez told The Vanguard.

McCaffrey then showed some of Marquez’s performances to Malcolm Merriweather, the conductor of Vocal Studies at Brooklyn College. Merriweather suggested that Marquez audition for Brooklyn College’s vocal program. The idea thrilled the budding artist, since it meant he had the chance of moving to New York City and studying here. “I couldn’t say no to this incredible opportunity and I had such a wonderful, enriching experience at Brooklyn College,” Marquez said. It is every artist’s dream to live and study here.

Soon after applying, Marquez landed a spot at Brooklyn College. In the spring of 2020, he was cast as Sarastro for “The Magic Flute,” an opera scheduled as a part of the Brooklyn College theater program.

But as the COVID-19 pandemic hit New York City and brought the production to a pause, he watched and feared with all of Brooklyn College students and faculty as the city shut down.

“I was not just sad that things were being canceled, I was heartbroken,” Marquez said. However, he never doubted that Brooklyn College would still allow him



Alejandro Marquez

to graduate on time.

In order for Marquez to graduate last year, he worked with Mark Schnaible, his voice teacher, as well as his mother, a classically trained soprano in Puerto Rico. Together, they created voice recordings, which was double the work than the previously planned graduation recital he was set to perform in prior to COVID-19.

Marquez’s family had

planned to travel to Brooklyn College for his graduation recital, but instead, they were able to hear him and his mother practice for the recordings until they were perfected. “When you are recording, you cannot make any mistakes, that is the tedious thing about it,” Marquez said. “We hired an accompanist to make sure everything was perfect in the recordings.”

As Brooklyn College’s

music program opened again for in-person learning with COVID protocols in place on Aug. 25, many rejoiced that the arts found its way through the pandemic for Marquez and others. Marquez is happy for his fellow BC peers who have returned to in-person learning to make their dreams come true. “If they just keep trying for their dreams and never give up, they can be fulfilled,” he said.

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# Opinion: Joe Biden is The Most Anti-War President in My Lifetime

By Sammy Quarrato  
Staff Writer

President Joe Biden has decided to make a decision that the two presidents who preceded him didn't make. This decision, of course, was to end the war in Afghanistan. The Afghanistan War had lasted for twenty years, making it America's longest war.

The majority of Americans have agreed with ending the long conflict since the 2010s. This wasn't a partisan issue either with voters from all political backgrounds agreeing with it despite the negative media. I am one of those Americans who agrees with the president on this decision.

While I agree with the decision, this is coming from someone who was incredibly critical of Joe Biden during the 2020 Democratic Primary. My main critique of his bid for president was that most of his policies didn't go far enough. On this issue, however, President Biden is unequivocally correct on his decision and judgement of the situation in the region.

Not only have we been in Afghanistan for twenty years, we have also spent \$2 trillion on this war (estimated to be \$6.5 trillion by 2050 accounting for interest). Beyond years and dollars, we also lost 2,448 US troops including those 13 service members who died in the recent ISIS-K Bombing. These lives

from our country have been lost alongside 47,245 Afghan civilians with another 169 Afghan citizens lost in the most recent attack.

Even with all of this, the 300,000 person Afghan military folded like a lawn chair to the fighting force of 75,000 Taliban fighters. This was especially tough to witness considering the years and \$83 billion worth of training we gave the Afghan military.

This was obviously not an issue of numbers for the Afghan military; it was the government's complete lack of will to fight without endless support from the US. This is due to the fact that Afghanistan is basically a made-up country that was propped up by foreign powers over time with different ethnic groups of different tribes in charge. The President of Afghanistan leaving the country in a helicopter with bags of cash and the most recent government being corrupt is merely a continuation.

The original reason for going to Afghanistan was to kill Osama bin Laden and to finish off Al-Qaeda. Both have been accomplished within the last ten years. Ask yourself what the mission was after those two tasks were accomplished? If you can't answer that, I don't blame you because neither could the military nor our government.

According to the Afghanistan Papers, generals were constantly pointing out the lack



President Joe Biden./AP Photo by Evan Vucci

of a mission. General Douglas Lute, referred to as the "War Czar" by the New York Times, stated, "What are we trying to do here? We didn't have the foggiest notion of what we were undertaking." Army Colonel Bob Crowley also stated that, "Every data point was altered to present the best picture possible..."

The Afghanistan Papers confirmed to the American people that the war was being led by those who essentially had no idea what they were doing in the country after finishing off Al-Qaeda and killing bin Laden. That was partially true, but we didn't do the war for humanitarian reasons nor for building democracy.

We stayed there in large part because of Neoconservatives, such as John Bolton and Bill Kristol, the likes of which wanted us to stay to have more influence in the region than countries, such as China or Iran.

The media has been exceptionally

critical of Biden, hyper scrutinizing every single problem that occurred in the region. Media scrutiny is important but the US media has had a long reputation of being pro-intervention. They failed to show the public that war was a struggle through and through and so much more than just the pullout.

Mainstream media had, what felt like, five minutes of coverage of the war for all of 2020. There are songs longer than that, and it was the same outlets that told us about the fake weapons of mass destruction in 2003. They barely touched the fact there was a period of time where 90% of the drone strike killings in Afghanistan were not even targets, meaning many were innocent civilians.

Just like the British Empire or Soviets, the US went to Afghanistan and failed, miserably. This track record has earned the country the name the 'Graveyard of Empires.' The fall of Kabul would have happened whether

we pulled out in 2014, 2021, 2025 or 2035. This seems especially evident since the government collapsed in 72 hours.

The last US soldier left Afghanistan on Aug. 31, as promised. In all, we have evacuated 120,000 Americans and Afghans that aided us during the war, making it one of the biggest airlifts in history in such a short amount of time.

President Biden is correct that we shouldn't be sending Americans whose own parents may have fought in the war to fight and possibly die for a government that doesn't want to fight for itself.

The fall of Saigon was supposed to teach us a lesson that we shouldn't have stayed in Vietnam as long as we did, not that we should have stayed longer.

All in all, President Joe Biden should be praised for his decision to stand up to the military industrial complex, pro-interventionist media, and neo-conservatives and to end what seemed like an endless war.



# Rolling Rock Ramblings: These Colors Do Run



A demonstration in Kabul calling on President Biden to act./Wakhil Kohsar via startribune.com

By Ian Ezinga  
*Opinions Editor*

The United States has been the world’s leading military superpower for almost eighty years. Not quite as impressive as the Romans, but nonetheless, for modern observers, when we think, we might think Red, White, and Blue. These colors don’t run, except on a few occasions, which have had seismic consequences for the US, the region we were engaged in conflict, and the world as a whole.

This is obviously, I hope, not a pro-war column, but I am a wary observer of the consequences wrought upon people both foreign and domestic because of US foreign policy. Getting out of Afghanistan was obviously the right move. In fact, it was never the right move to go to Afghanistan in the first

place. Senator Joe Biden certainly was opposed to the invasion, but can we find it in our hearts to forgive his mistake?

I, in answering that question, cannot. The US, as alluded to in the introduction, has abandoned a useless but incalculably costly war before. The lesson should have been learned. There have been plenty of parallels drawn between Vietnam and Afghanistan over the last few weeks, but really comparisons have been made over the entire course of our recently “ended” conflict. To those who are worried about continued conflict in the region on behalf of the United States, rest assured, there will be more.

Having to evacuate Saigon in 1975 certainly did not mean the US abandoned all interest in the region. The United States was keen

on maintaining some sort of elevated terrain, if not physically, then in the halls of international diplomacy. Tactfully using their United Nations Security Council veto to deny international aid to the country after the unification of North and South Vietnam, politicians were able to gloat over the terrible conditions found in the war-torn region. Our bombs, napalm, soldiers, and propped-up government did insurmountable damage yet they saw fit to starve the victorious nation of any chance of stabilizing itself.

Vietnam underwent tremendous struggles in the years following the exit. We were responsible for the conditions and dropped the ball on providing sufficient aid to get them back on their feet. Back in the United States, the 1970s didn’t end up being

our golden years. The Watergate scandal and the impending economic crash created a feeling of disillusionment and malaise. While Vietnam is doing better today, there is no question that they would be better off if we admitted defeat early and sought to fulfill our duty of patching the cavernous potholes that we created.

The mention of Vietnam is valuable to making the point that obviously the US should have left Afghanistan ages ago; but now that we have, sort of, we must make a radical commitment to the region that we were unable to make in Vietnam. Pardon my use of “we,” if you are an avowed proverbial expatriate, but it is the duty of this country to support the region we have spent the last twenty years terrorizing. Terror in the name of a

democracy which can barely support itself. Terror in the name of greed, sadism, and a long-standing commitment to not sharing.

If the governing officials of the United States have any desire to belong to the pages of history not entirely damned by future generations, then they must shrug off their egos and give what they have almost inexplicably proven to be unable to give: love. A tall order, no doubt. But failing to do so won’t only cause further chaos in Afghanistan and her neighboring countries, but will also set the US on a collision course for repeating history. A malaise is upon us, similar to the one experienced in the 1970s, if we do not cast away the shackles of our past mistakes and create a better future for those we have haunted.



# BC Intramurals Brings Back Fantasy Football

By Fawaad Farooq  
*Business Manager*

The fall 2021 semester at Brooklyn College has kicked off and so have campus sports after many cancellations and delays due to COVID-19 protocols. Brooklyn College Intramurals, however, have found another way for students to stay active and get involved: an NFL Fantasy Football League.

The man behind the league's creation is Alex Lang, who has been with

the Office of Recreation, Intramurals and Athletics at Brooklyn College since 2002. Lang is also the head coach of the women's basketball team.

"We started a Fantasy Football League last year as well as fantasy basketball, and it was very successful," Lang told The Vanguard. "The kids that were in it and took part in it, enjoyed it and had a great time. And many of them asked [us] to bring it back again this year."

In general, fantasy sports can be a fun way to meet and interact with new people. During the COVID-19 pandemic when professional sports resumed, fantasy sports leagues served as a way of safely keeping people engaged. Lang wanted to keep that trend going here at Brooklyn College and get as many students involved to make for a great experience.

The Fantasy Football League will welcome back students who participated

last year, but it is open to all students who wish to get involved, gain experience with the sport, win prizes, and have a great time without any buy-ins or cash outs.

"There's no entry fee or anything like that... we know that when people do usually participate in fantasy leagues there is money involved but not here," Lang added. "We have some prizes we give out, but other than that, there's really no money involved.

We want the students to have a great time and for the people who end up winning to be rewarded."

With the football season just about two weeks away and the basketball season just a little over a month away, it's an exciting time to be a sports fan, and this Fantasy Football League has reignited that feeling. If anyone would like to take part in fantasy sports, they can reach out to Alex Lang at [alang@brooklyn.cuny.edu](mailto:alang@brooklyn.cuny.edu).

# Noah Syndergaard Misses Rehab Start In BK Due To COVID

By Owen Russell  
*Sports Editor*

This past Sunday, I sat with a hotdog in hand at Maimonides Park, eagerly waiting for one of baseball's most electrifying pitchers, Noah Syndergaard, to take the mound for the Brooklyn Cyclones, a rehab assignment that's part of his recovery from a torn UCL. But when the Cyclones took the field at 4:00 p.m., there was no Syndergaard. As reported by ESPN, Syndergaard tested positive for COVID-19 on Sunday, Aug. 29, which also happened to be his birthday.

"This birthday is so sick," Syndergaard jokingly tweeted when the news broke on Sunday. Though Syndergaard took the setback in stride, this was no laughing matter for the struggling New York Mets.


Syndergaard hasn't pitched at Citi Field in almost two years, having received Tommy John

surgery in March 2020, right after the season was seemingly over due to COVID. Since then, it has been a struggle to get a healthy Syndergaard on the mound.

The Mets pitcher could not pitch at all in 2020, but he finally took the bump in May of this year, playing for the St. Lucie Mets, the Low-A affiliate of the New York Mets.

That stint in Florida, however, was cut short by elbow inflammation. Last Thursday, Syndergaard returned and threw one inning for the Cyclones, letting up one run in the process. But this has been the extent of his return thus far.

Despite his progress, Syndergaard is "nowhere close" to a return, according to Mets Manager Luis Rojas. Perhaps Rojas has a good reason for his assessment. In a recent statement Syndergaard made, he said he is eliminating breaking pitches (curveball and



Noah Syndergaard pitching for the Brooklyn Cyclones./Errol Anderson of Newsday

slider specifically) from his repertoire for the time being, per doctor's orders.

"He has an opportunity to keep working on his changeup, which is a pitch he developed through his rehab starts," Rojas told the New York Post. Like many Mets fans these days, it seems the manager is also searching for a silver lining.

The Mets could have used a healthy Syndergaard in recent months. Starting in July,

the team played 54 games and lost 32, dropping them to third place in the National League East after leading the division. The team has also been without star pitcher Jacob Degrom since July 7, when he pitched a victory against the surprisingly dominant Milwaukee Brewers. Injuries among their pitchers coinciding with lackluster play at the plate have put the Mets seven games behind the first-place Atlanta Braves. And it seems, out of

playoff contention for yet another season.

Overall, the Syndergaard saga highlights the organizational frustrations that have plagued the Mets lately. As the pitcher is entering the last year of his contract, the team is faced with a hard decision. Do you bring back the former all-star even though he's barely pitched since 2019? Met fans will certainly be holding their breath this offseason.



# Sports Return to Brooklyn College

By Owen Russell  
&  
Elijah Hamilton  
*Sports Editor*  
& *Staff Writer*

In March 2020, Brooklyn College sports were put on hold, but now, after nearly two years of waiting, sports are finally back for the Bulldogs.

“Our athletes and coaches are excited to be back,” Associate Athletic Director Alex Lang told The Vanguard. “We have a lot of work to be done after this long hiatus, but we are looking forward to seeing our Bulldogs back competing.”

The return of intercollegiate sports is certainly exciting, but things are not back to normal quite yet. The COVID-19 pandemic has left its mark on everyone and everything, and sports are no different.

“We have many protocols in place, most important all athletes are required to be vaccinated or receive



Alex Lang coaching the women’s basketball team./cunyathletics.com

a CUNY-approved exemption,” said Lang.

According to the CUNY website, those exemptions are limited to medical and religious reasons. Students applying for a medical exemption must submit a statement from a doctor, and students applying for a religious exemption must submit a written statement outlining how the vaccine conflicts with

their religious beliefs. Even if a student is exempted, however, they still must follow school protocols.

“For those athletes with exemptions, there will need to be regular testing,” added Lang.

Even though teams are competing again and professional sports have welcomed fans back into stadiums, the return of fans at Brooklyn College will

have to wait a bit longer.

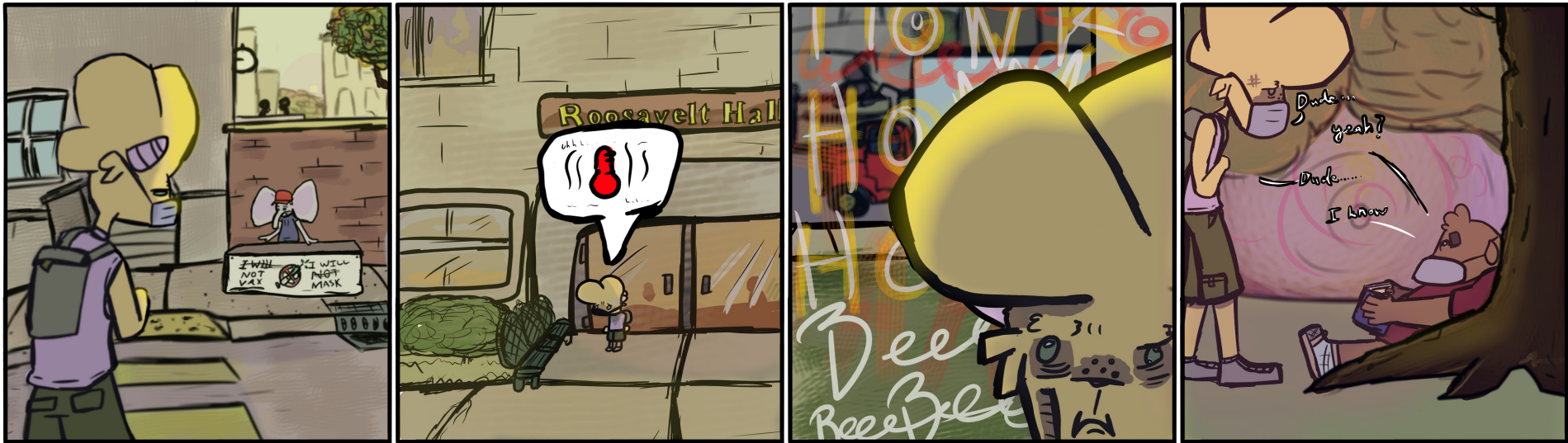
“We are hopeful that at some point soon we will be able to allow fans, but at the start of the fall season our plan does not include fans,” said Lang.

Despite not being able to attend games, however, Brooklyn College fans can still keep up with the Bulldogs by following Brooklyn College Athletics on Instagram (@bklyn\_

bulldogs).

The sports season may look different from what we are used to here at Brooklyn College, but after such a long break, it is nice to see our Bulldogs compete once again. And one day, when we are hopefully screaming our heads off from the bleachers once again, we will look back and realize how big of a first step this was.

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





# Remembering The Kingsmen: A Look Back At BC'S Gridiron Gladiators

By Owen Russell  
*Sports Editor*

Before we were Bulldogs, we were Bridges, and before that, we were Kings. Up until 1994, every athlete who donned the maroon and gold for Brooklyn College was a Kingsman. With nearly 30 years passed, it's hard to imagine campus without Buster jaunting around and the state of the art athletic field. But on that very spot, once sat a torn up field, which at times had to be patched with rugs. This was home to the Brooklyn College Football Team.

"From day one, it was family. I felt welcomed the moment I walked into the locker room. The program was great, the practices were intense, but when I look back, it's a highlight of my life," offensive lineman and tight end Rob Johnson remembers fondly. Like the "Kingsmen" name, the football team phased out in the early nineties, but the memories are still resonant for the men who played for the program.

For left tackle Fritz St. Jean, the camaraderie was valuable but surprising. "The toughest part, for me, these were guys you played against in high school, and now you have to hold hands with them," he told *The Vanguard*.

As Fritz notes, the uneasiness was short-lived though. "These 50 guys, from all different high schools got together, and we made the football team. That was a beautiful thing," he said. There were guys who went to Lafayette, Madison, Midwood, all over Brooklyn, but they

were all Kingsmen at the end of the day.

Those bonds that formed from day one couldn't be overlooked when you were in the heat of a grueling football season. In some of their tougher moments, these close ties kept the team moving forward.

"In my first year, we were 0-10," running back Bruce Johnson said, "but we played hard. And we all came out every day for practice. Didn't matter if it was the first week, eighth week, it didn't matter." That combination of grit and friendship was what the Kingsmen were all about.

"You were accepted for who you were, not how you played," as fellow running back Pat Brown put it.

Don't get it twisted. Even though there were some tough losses, the Kingsmen had many impressive victories. Whether they were beating bigger programs like Marist, fighting through a downpour to topple Siena, or trekking up the Canadian border to beat Niagara University in front of the New York State Governor, the Kingsmen have wins that they can hang their hats on. But perhaps none were more special than a game against New York Maritime in 1985.

"[That night] We retired number 21 in honor of our friend and captain, Bobby Naimoli, who we lost earlier that year," Rob Johnson vividly recalled. Naimoli tragically passed away earlier that year.

"New York Maritime started fast, and took a quick 24-6 lead...Despite the early

deficit we refused to lose," he said. With that drive to win in their minds, and the love for their former captain in their hearts, the team came blistering back in the second half.

"Stephan Grant returned a kickoff for a touchdown, with the help of a huge block by Fritz St. Jean. The return seemed to turn the tide for us," Johnson added, giving props to quarterback Peter Waterman who was another huge contributor to the team's comeback. The *New York Post* at the time noted, "Waterman, who completed 15 of his 30 passes, hit three touchdowns in the third quarter."

That night, the game meant more than just football. It exemplified what the players continue to preach to this day--family. Even despite the deficit, as Johnson noted, "There was no way we were going to lose that game on that night."

In a lot of ways, the players lifted each other up and helped each other get better. But anybody that played for Brooklyn will credit their coaches for everything they earned.

"Coach Filosa was an older brother figure for a lot of guys. He was someone you could always talk to," wide receiver Jimmy Russell said about his former coach. Bruce Filosa, the current Director of Recreation, Intramurals, and Intercollegiate Athletics at Brooklyn College, started as head coach for the team in 1983 and saw the program through till its end.

"He tried setting up study halls and tutoring sessions for the guys. And



L to R: Brooklyn College Kingsmen Rob Johnson and Fritz St. Jean during their playing days./ **Courtesy of Fritz St. Jean**

if you ever got hurt on the field, he was the first one to come and check on you," said Russell.

Much like Filosa, the players fondly remember Bill Chisolm and his impact on and off the field. "You could write a book about how influential this man was," Pat Brown remarked. "He wasn't just a football coach. He was a life mentor."

Chisolm took over as the full-time trainer and football coach for Brooklyn College in 1970, and his impact has reverberated till today. "I think he really shaped us as men, but especially African-American men," defensive back Craig Williams said. "I remember he pulled me to the side, and he said, 'Craig forget about football, you got to focus on your paper.'"

Despite no longer being here on earth, Coach Chisolm lives on through the athletes he helped mold.

As college came to an end for the men who played football as Kingsmen, the lessons they learned did not fade. "Teamwork, discipline, respect for others, these are all things we learned on the field," Jimmy Russell said.

It's these lessons and more which convince Russell to encourage current students to give athletics a shot. "You learn life lessons when you play sports, and you make lifelong friends too. I definitely encourage people to play sports if they can," Russell added.

With more than 30 years since some of these men laced up their cleats for Brooklyn College, they will forever remain Kingsmen. The lessons learned on the gridiron helped them to become teachers, firefighters, police officers, and overall, men who are proud of the work they put in to become better players and better people.