

Get Paid To Get Vax
Pg.2

Campus Gate Ambassadors
Pg. 4



THE BROOKLYN COLLEGE

WANGUARD

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Wednesday, September 15th

20 YEARS AFTER 9/11

What CUNY Students Who Don't Remember 9/11 Never Forget

Pg. 6



Prof. Pham And BC At NYFW
Pg. 7

PRLS "West Side Story" Series
Pg. 10

Spectator Policy Backlash
Pg. 16

Get Paid To Get Vaxxed At BC

By Matt Hirsch
News Editor

Brooklyn College is hosting a “Vaccine Van” from the NYC Test & Trace Corps, offering Johnson & Johnson and Pfizer vaccines from Sept. 20 to 26. The shot is free, but there’s an extra incentive to get the jab at the van.

“Folks getting J&J are eligible for the \$100 incentive, and folks getting the first dose of Pfizer are also eligible and will receive info on how to get a

second dose,” BC Media Relations Manager Richard Pietras wrote to The Vanguard in an email. “This incentive is only for folks getting their first shot, so anyone getting a second shot won’t be able to receive the \$100 debit card.”

The NYC Test & Trace Corps is a public initiative led by NYC Health + Hospitals along with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. The program sends vans all over



Courtesy of Brooklyn College

the city with teams that speak Spanish, Mandarin, Russian, French, Yiddish, and Haitian Creole to help vaccinate New Yorkers with minimal language barriers.

The deadline for students to upload proof of vaccination

to CUNYfirst is Sept. 27. Those who haven’t received their first dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccinations yet need to get the J&J shot by Sept. 23 to meet the cut and avoid being withdrawn from their in-person courses.

No Major Losses Reported At BC After Hurricane Ida

By John Schilling
Managing Editor

When Hurricane Ida swept through the northeast on Wednesday, Sept. 1, Brooklyn College was not immune from the flooding and transportation delays throughout the area.

In the days after Hurricane Ida, the Brooklyn College campus was closed to students, and in-person classes were either canceled or held remotely. This was due to the immediate concerns brought by the storm.

“Brooklyn College and some other CUNY campuses closed on Thursday, September 2 except for essential workers due to the storm and the challenges associated with public transportation,” Alan Gilbert, the Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration, told The Vanguard. “We remained closed on Friday, September 3, because there were no classes, and this allowed us to continue clean-up efforts.”



The East Quad is currently under construction./Gabriela Flores

As seen in videos on social media, the flooding was several feet high in some areas, and nine lives were lost throughout New York City as a result, according to Patch.com. This included a 66-year-old man from Brooklyn, who was later found dead in his apartment in Cypress Hills.

There were no major losses reported at Brooklyn College, and the

campus has since reopened for in-person classes, but the lower level of the library will remain closed for the time being.

“The lower level of the Library Building remains closed as we work to replace the carpet with floor tiles,” added Gilbert.

The Brooklyn College campus is also undergoing some additional

construction on the East Quad, with its perimeter boarded up with wood and closed off with barricades as a result. It is unclear at this time if the construction was due to damage from the storm or if it had been previously scheduled.

The Vanguard will continue to update readers as information is made available.

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BC's Bell Tolls For 20th 9/11 Memorial

By Matt Hirsch
News Editor

On the twentieth anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks, Brooklyn College tolled the library building's bell to honor those who were lost. The bell rang six times corresponding with the events of that tragic day: the attacks on the North and South Towers, The Pentagon, Flight 77 crashing in Pennsylvania, and the collapse of the Twin Towers. The tolls rang at 8:46 a.m., 9:03 a.m., 9:37 a.m., 9:59 a.m.,

10:03 a.m., and 10:28 a.m., respectively.

"9/11 deeply affected Brooklyn College. It's appropriate that there would be some meaningful attention given to it," BC Professor Ronald Howell told The Vanguard. "I think that the ringing of the bell touches the heart, and that's what the intention was."

Since 2002, Brooklyn College has rung the bell every year on the anniversary in memorial of those lost in the attacks.

"When you look at the population of Brooklyn College you can see the groups that were deeply affected. Not just the children or relatives of first responders, but also the Muslim immigrant community," said Howell. "This is remarked upon with pain but also a sense of hope for the future. The ringing of the bell does all of that, to me."

Brooklyn College asked the community to observe a moment of silence with each bell toll.



Brooklyn College's Library Building's bell tower./Brooklyn College

Tanger Hillel Cleans Up Coney Island For Reverse Tashlich

By Matt Hirsch
News Editor

Brooklyn College's Tanger Hillel gathered on Sept. 12 to help clean up Coney Island Beach for the fourth annual Reverse Tashlich of Jewish marine conservation organization Tikkun HaYam. The event saw Jewish communities in eighteen different countries gather to clean up marine debris.



Courtesy of USG President Aharon Grama.

On the first day of the Jewish New Year, Rosh Hashanah, breadcrumbs are traditionally cast into a body of water, and prayers are recited to symbolically cast away sin in the Tashlich ceremony. Hillel joined Tikkun HaYam to perform this practice in a way that

would also contribute to the community, hence "Reverse Tashlich."

The event was organized by Tanger Hillel staff member and BC alum Danielle Kogan. Fifteen volunteers including students and some alumni spent the afternoon collecting over

2,500 pieces of garbage. "This was the first event I got to plan [from] start-to-finish as a staff member at the Tanger Hillel," she said. "I was really inspired by the students' passion for community, and honestly, it was heartwarming to see so many students

acknowledge the customize the event environment as a to our students' needs. And knowing, as a team leader, that there were teams of people around the world working on the same thing, on the same day, was mind-blowing," said Kogan. "Tikkun HaYam made it so easy to

the customize the event environment as a to our students' needs. And knowing, as a team leader, that there were teams of people around the world working on the same thing, on the same day, was mind-blowing," said Kogan.

BC Gate Ambassadors Ease Campus Return

By Gabriela Flores
Editor-in-Chief

To help incoming students and faculty navigate their campus reentry passes, Brooklyn College administrators and the Undergraduate Student Government (USG) launched the “Campus Gate Ambassadors” program. At each of BC’s three entry points, ambassadors are on standby to help with vaccine verification on CUNYFirst, assist students waiting for their Everbridge VaxPass, inform unvaccinated students of CUNY’s testing sites, and share other information about BC’s re-entry measures.

“Brooklyn College, as much as they want to, they won’t be able to help all students at once,” Aharon Grama, USG co-president, told *The Vanguard*. Though the college sent regular updates about reentry protocol, Grama explained that many students often do not check administrative emails.

Grama and his USG colleagues were the first to propose the idea to Alan Gilbert, BC’s Senior Vice President For Finance and Administration, five days before the program and semester’s start on Aug. 25. Gilbert’s team, USG, Student Affairs, and the Provost’s office organized different



USG Co-President Aharon Grama at the Whitehead Hall entry point./Gabriela Flores

shifts for BC volunteers and administrators to cover. About 19 percent of students registered for in-person classes had their VaxPasses on the first day of classes, but by the end of the week, ambassadors were able to raise the figure to 54 percent, Grama said.

“The first day at the entry points was a mixture of individuals who had set up everything in advance to individuals requiring additional assistance,” Marcus Richardson, Executive Director of Strategic Initiatives, wrote to *The Vanguard* in an email. “It was immediately apparent that it was a worthwhile initiative. Many of the ambassadors felt that it was a rewarding experience and a practical solution.”

Ambassadors tackled many technical issues that students encountered, such as compressing photos

of vaccine cards for CUNYFirst. Throughout the past two weeks, ambassadors found that many vaccinated students did not know that before downloading Everbridge, they were required to upload their verification on CUNYFirst for Student Affairs to review. Other students who recently passed their verification had to wait up to one business day for their Everbridge updates.

To troubleshoot and ensure that students did not miss their classes, gate administrators created a list with the names and EMPLID numbers of all vaccinated BC members who could set foot on campus.

Ambassadors were then able to direct the students to the designated personnel. “So those students, I

would say, are where we made the biggest impact on their day with being able to actually allow them in,” Grama said.

Many unvaccinated students who ambassadors helped were unaware that BC only accepts tests taken at one of CUNY’s testing sites, per the university’s COVID-protocol. In other instances, students did not receive their testing results in time via the university’s test-monitoring platform Cleared4, or their records were not on file. Without proof of a negative COVID-test, students were not allowed on campus.

“To be honest, those were the most heartbreaking because they did what they needed to do. They got tested. They showed pictures of themselves in the building. There was no reason for them

to lie,” Grama said.

The program will continue as more BC students resume in-person classes after a two-week delay across some departments and the Sept. 27 deadline for vaccine verification approaches. Since fewer ambassadors have returned after BC’s first week of classes, Whitehead Hall has become the prioritized entry point for the remaining volunteers.

“We try to prioritize one gate at least that we are sure we have an administrator with a master list,” Grama said.



BC Prof. Irina Patkanian Offers Advice on Film Trade

By Johan Abdu
Staff Writer

On Aug. 9, CUNY Brooklyn College proudly announced that Television, Radio, and Emerging Media Professor and Filmmaker Irina Patkanian was awarded an Artist Fellowship in the Video/Film category, along with \$7,000 worth of funds by the New York Foundation for the Arts. Patkanian will use the funding towards “Somos Cuba,” her documentary project set in Havana. The film follows the change in the country’s political landscape, leaving behind its communist past through the lens of real people and their families.

Patkanian receiving the prestigious fellowship came almost as a surprise, considering the NYFA looked over 3,572 applicants and only selected 88 fellows.

“What’s important is to understand that there are so many ways of making films [and] there are so many ways of telling a story,” Patkanian told *The Vanguard*. “On television and in film, only 10 percent of possibilities are shown.”

Patkanian was born in St. Petersburg, Russia and enjoyed her youth as a storyteller, going



“Little Fiel” promotional image./Irina Patkanian

on to graduate from the University of St. Petersburg with a BA in English Literature & Linguistics. She moved to the United States in 1991, after the fall of the communist regime in Russia, and resided in Iowa to earn her MFA in Film Production at the University of Iowa, making short films and earning fellowships along the way.

She eventually moved to Brooklyn, New York, and worked for production companies and films before receiving a work offer from Brooklyn

College.

Patkanian is inspired by the works of independent creators, such as John Cassavetes, Lynne Ramsey, and Kelly Reinhardt, and 20 years later, she sees firsthand the changes in filmmaking practices between her students and fellow peers.

“I’ve seen a lot more interesting and experimental works outside of the typical distribution channels...students, too. Especially, during the pandemic, I’ve seen more range, more interesting, more risk-taking work shot on small equipment,” she said.

When it comes to her most accomplished works, Patkanian points to “Little Fiel,” her 2017 stop motion animation/documentary. Inspired by Mozambican Artist Fiel dos Santos’s real tellings of his country’s civil war and the people it affected, the short film reinterprets guns for what they are: pieces of metal that can be repurposed. Just as they are assembled, we can take them apart and make them into different things.

“Little Fiel” went on to be selected and awarded at film

festivals around the United States, as well as winning Best Documentary at the 2018 Beveren International Film Festival in Belgium and the Human Rights Award at the 2018 Amazing Shorts Film Festival in Madrid, Spain.

For film and filmmakers, it’s all about telling a unique story. Whether it’s about forbidden love or a tear-jerking tale too good to be true, it often comes down to its originality and how you can fall in love with the film-making process. Films, after all, are almost like “human beings,” according to Patkanian.

“I often think of films as people because they are such organic creatures,” said Patkanian.

“Some films are good but I don’t like them, just like people, but let’s not go into that.”

In her filmmaking class, Patkanian teaches three distinct things about film right from the get-go.

“One. It has to inform, tell you something new that you did not know; Two. It has to move you. If it doesn’t move you, nobody cares. People will not register it and dismiss

it; Three. It has to be visual, because it is a visual media,” explained Patkanian. “If you are being very, very honest, it is guaranteed to be original.”

Patkanian also admits that not everyone is cut out for filmmaking since self-negotiations are often involved when it comes to what you gravitate towards the most and what you excel at.

“I came up with the concept of ‘the key.’ If you find the right key, it will open all doors. As soon as you figure out what your film is about, it will be easy. Before that, it’s difficult,” Patkanian said.

For Patkanian, there are many aspects to filmmaking that take time to master on their own, but everyone should be comfortable behind a camera and be able to share not just videos with the world, but also themselves.

“I think that you should take videos on your phone and share it widely,” said Patkanian. “I think filmmakers have to learn a lot more, how to tell a story, and most importantly, how to make an audience see that story, and what they want them to see.”



Professor Irina Patkanian./InParentheses.org

Never Forget: How CUNY's Gen-Z Remembers 9/11

By Gabriela Flores
Editor-in-Chief

For many children who lived or were yet to be born twenty years ago during 9/11, piecing together what happened that day started at an early age. To many CUNY students who have no recollection of the attacks, the saying “never forget” translated into their classroom memorials and annual lessons of how 2,996 lives were lost.

“I feel like it’s kind of surreal that someone lost a loved one or survived for the same amount of time I’ve been alive. I think it’s astonishing,” Janely Ortiz, a Queens College student, told *The Vanguard*.

The immense deaths and injuries inflicted during 9/11 remained in the memories of many students who initially depended on anecdotes to fill in any blanks. For Ortiz, her earliest memory of hearing about the attacks was in second grade. In remembrance of the World Trade Center attacks, she and her peers took a moment of silence at 8:46 am and 9:03 am, when airplanes hijacked by militant Islamist al-Qaeda members flew into the North and South Tower.

It wasn’t until two years later that the tremendous death toll took her aback when she saw the graphics in documentaries. “As you get older, you start thinking about the small things, how some worked



Many CUNY Students were not yet born twenty years ago during 9/11./Stefan Jeremiah of APNews.com

at the towers but missed the train that day or their kid got sick,” Ortiz said. “It’s like, ‘Wow, you could’ve not been here today talking about this or crying about a loved one that passed away.’”

Though two decades have rolled by, many students find themselves still remembering the stories and agony of their fellow New Yorkers who lived to tell what happened.

“Although I wasn’t there, it was still the year that I was born. It was still a part of the history of the city I grew up in,” Brooklyn College student Eliana De Sa told *The Vanguard*. “I would hear the panic about people retelling the story. It was such a shocking moment for everyone, that they didn’t know what to respond.”

De Sa was in kindergarten when she first got word of Sept. 11, only a year after moving from her native

Argentina. Hearing about the attacks in her new city was unsettling after being raised in a different country for the first four years of her life. As a kid traveling to the United States with a foreign passport, she noticed the intense airport security, assuming that the tightened protocol was in response to the hijacking of 9/11.

However, once De Sa grew older she understood how the day had a much bigger impact--it further shifted people’s perceptions of immigrants and Muslims. “I could see how differently I was treated in comparison to using the US passport which I got later on,” she said. “I guess people started to ‘watch their backs more’ and I definitely think it instilled that fear that translated to xenophobia.”

On several college campuses, including Brooklyn College, the NYPD spied on Muslim

students in the years that followed the attacks. Hate crimes against Muslims surged 500 percent from 2000 to 2009 in the United States, as reported by NPR. Additionally, under President George W. Bush, surveillance programs were implemented, including a registry of people from Muslim-majority countries that led to thousands in detention.

“We definitely [should] honor the lives that were lost on that day, but also how life has changed after 9/11,” said Faiza, a Hunter College student who did not wish to share her last name.

Faiza distinctly remembers the day when Osama Bin Laden, one of al-Qaeda’s founders, was killed by US Navy Seals. While she was sitting in class, her fifth-grade teacher described Muslims as “extremists” and criticized the use of burqas. As a then 10-year-old Muslim girl, born in Bangladesh and

living in the Big Apple, she felt targeted and uncomfortable.

“I don’t know how to explain it, but I felt like she was blaming the religion in a way,” Faiza said. “The first thought that came to my head was, ‘She’s describing us... me.’”

As time passes, and the stories of 9/11 are shared with younger generations, these CUNY students believe that the death toll and its aftermath will remain unforgettable. Faiza and De Sa, who both aspire to lead their own classrooms one day, plan on sharing different 9/11 anecdotes and experiences to ensure the memory of those lost withhold the test of time.

“I think it’s important when we recognize that history isn’t just words in textbooks. It’s a real story that affected real lives, which is why it’s important we learn about it,” De Sa said.

Prof. Ngoc Cindy Pham And BC Take NYFW



Professor Ngoc Cindy Pham./@dr.ngoccindypbam on Instagram



BC student Kalliniki Lambrinoudis, the show's leading makeup artist, applying makeup on a model./Joseph Fraia

By Mary Zakharova
Staff Writer

With the commencement of the 2021 New York Fashion Week last Wednesday, Sept. 8, four Brooklyn College students got the chance to take part in the first of three shows curated by BC Marketing Professor Ngoc Cindy Pham.

Professor Pham first participated in NYFW in 2018, and every year, she invites her students to take part in the show alongside her.

This fall, Brooklyn College students Jamie Jones, Adrianna Gallina, Johnny Desius, and Kalliniki Lambrinoudis were all chosen to participate in the show. Each played a significant role in

making the runway happen. Jones was the show's producer assistant, Gallina was floor manager assistant, Desius led with his modeling, and Lambrinoudis worked as the event's head makeup artist.

According to Pham, newcomers Desius and Gallina are now thinking about working for New York Fashion Week professionally. Like her students, Pham was always interested in fashion. "My whole family liked dressing up. My family is Vietnamese refugees, and we combined our traditional style with the Western one," Pham said.

When she began teaching marketing, Pham decided to combine two of her passions: fashion and

international business. This combination ultimately led to her involvement in NYFW.

Each show Pham has joined was different and unique in its own way. The most memorable shows for Pham were NYFW 2020, and the spring-summer 2022 collection showcased this September. "The last time we had to do it online. It was horrible... it's not the same," Pham added, referring to the 2020 show that COVID-19 forced to carry on remotely.

This year, however, the collections reflect the optimism and energy of a post-COVID world. Designers were inspired by bright colors and the city finally opening up.

"People can't wait to get back to normal life. New York is famous for black colors, but right now, you see color everywhere," said Pham.

She realized that the pandemic taught designers and fashion consumers like herself to get out of their comfort zones. This year was the first time she took part in the show as a model. "It's my ninth season, but it's the first time I walk because life is very short," she emphasized.

Pham loved the experience, even though the backstage side of NYFW was incredibly stressful. Models were lining up for hair and makeup, shuffling through outfits to find the one that best suits them. When it was time to

walk the runway, they were all waiting their turn and making sure they didn't miss their group.

"Sometimes they [the organizers of the event] don't remember how many models there are in a team," Pham said.

NYFW is one of the biggest shows in the world. Even people who are not typically interested in fashion visit the shows, online streams, and collection presentations to see what the city's creatives have to offer.

"In NYC, nobody judges your personality or uniqueness. Actually, we embrace it," said Pham. "That's why we understand ourselves better. We don't have to be someone else. I like it."

SAIL Hosts Virtual Diversity Fair

By Serin Sarsour
Features Editor

As the pandemic persists, Brooklyn College held its annual Diversity Fair virtually on Sept. 9. Rather than being on the quad, behind their table stands, BC club presidents and members were stationed in their own Zoom rooms on BulldogConnection. The students they welcomed were given the opportunity to ask questions and get insight into the different club initiatives and events. But like many things that were forced to move online, the Diversity Fair faced some challenges.

“Promoting the fair was not the difficult part because social media and emails help get the word out. Getting individuals to actually attend is what is difficult about holding an event in a virtual format,” Hamilton Raymond, the Associate Director of Student Affairs at BC, told The Vanguard.

“Prior to the pandemic, more new students attended the fair because it was actually on campus, so students were able to stop at any table with the club that they were interested in joining in between their classes,” Raymond added. About 20 clubs had their own Zoom spots in this fall’s fair, and over 100 BC students sent their RSVPs. There is no definitive count on how many people attended the event.

Though the fair’s turnout was light, many

BC leaders were still eager to share details of their clubs to whoever stopped by. Amber Khemlani, a BC senior who is the co-president of the Desi Culture Club, said her club is “dedicated to celebrating South Asian culture on campus through a variety of events.”

“Our events range from mixers to movie nights to our extravagant annual spring formal at the end of the spring semester,” Khemlani continued.

For those in the Student Organization For Every Disability United For Progress (SOFEDUP), raising awareness about the disability community at Brooklyn College has become their passion. “We want to make non-disabled people from all demographics aware of our struggles and how our struggles impact us, even if our disability or diagnosis is not noticeable on the surface,” Austin Nicholas Dragos, a BC senior, told The Vanguard.

“Everyone in the disability community deserves as much recognition as people coming from other marginalized communities,” Dragos added.

Similar to the SOFEDUP club, the president of the Islamic Society (ISO), a BC senior named Bilal Khan, gave The Vanguard an overview of his club’s initiatives. “Our club aims to provide a platform and safe space for young Muslims in America to

Promotional image./@bc_sail on Instagram

feel comfortable with their identity and gain nearness to their faith through knowledge, community service, and social initiatives,” he says.

ISO also works very closely with the Muslim Women’s Educational Initiative (MWEI) and Muslims Giving Back. Fahria Orine, a BC senior who is the president of the MWEI, said, “When I think of MWEI, I think of the word ‘wholesome.’ When you walk into the room or into any

event you do not have to worry about being judged; you’re taken in with open arms.” Orine only wishes that new Muslim students at BC were aware of the club’s community.

For many organizations, however, COVID-19 has made student outreach an obstacle. “Keeping in touch with our student club members and officers was quite challenging not only because of technological limitations, but because of the negative mental

health complications everyone endured,” Dragos from SOFEDUP added.

Though COVID-19 complicated things for everyone, BC clubs managed through the challenges of the fair and remote learning. “We have increased our virtual outreach through the use of social media, specifically Instagram, and initiated many online events,” Desi Culture’s Khemlani said.

CUNY Reacts To Fall Of Grand Prospect Hall

By Serin Sarsour
Features Editor

For 129 years, Grand Prospect Hall held thousands of weddings, graduations, and other events in its Victorian-style banquet. But when COVID-19 struck, it took the life of Michael Halkias, one of the hall's owners, and the Park Slope staple itself. Weeks after it was sold this past June, dozens of protestors and CUNY students fled to Grand Prospect Hall and attempted to save it from being knocked to the ground.

"It's been a part of the neighborhood for so long and it'd be a shame to see it be demolished," Sarai Leal, a sophomore at the Borough of Manhattan Community

College (BMCC), told The Vanguard. "I think it holds a special place in many people's hearts."

According to The New York Times, a contractor named Angelo Rigas bought the property from Halkias for \$30 million. Rigas was granted a permit for full interior demolition from the Department of Buildings, which expires on Sept. 30.

"I highly believe the reason why the city is moving forward with tearing down historical properties and buildings is to create bigger and new establishments that will not benefit local residents," BMCC sophomore Kira Andrews told The Vanguard. Andrews worries that the property's future may

contribute to the "rise in gentrification" in Brooklyn.

Gentrification is no stranger in Park Slope. The neighborhood, once known for its diverse and affordable small businesses, has slowly become permeated with big American chain companies. There are now three Starbucks in the span of nine blocks in Park Slope where small businesses used to be, including one former 50's style restaurant and a family sports restaurant, according to The Odyssey.

Other local Brooklynites think that the demolition of Grand Prospect Hall will impact the community's sense of unity. "Some buildings are meant



Grand Prospect Hall./TheKnot.com

to stay for generations upon generations to give the neighborhood meaning," said Josh Fleary, a Brooklyn College sophomore who thinks the public should take action and sign petitions. "Demolishing a place that has meaning means destroying a part

of history and memories," Fleary added.

About 39,000 people have signed a petition on Change.org against the demolition of the Grand Prospect Hall. Nonetheless, Rigas and his company have continued their plans.

BC's Feirstein Named #25 Top Film School In North America

By Alexandria Woolfe
Staff Writer

Brooklyn College's very own Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema was recently ranked #25 by The Hollywood Reporter on their list of top 25 film schools in North America. The ranking comes after a transition year under Richard Gladstein, Feirstein's new executive director and a two-time Academy Award-nominated producer. Gladstein's producing credits include "Pulp Fiction," "The Hateful Eight," "Reservoir Dogs," "She's All That," "Jackie Brown," and "The Bourne Identity."

New implementations at the school created by Gladstein over the past year include masterclasses with renowned directors, such as Gus Van Sant, and various panels with Gladstein's industry peers and connections. Students

recently took part in an artist-in-residence seminar with the filmmakers behind HBO's "Random Acts of Flyness."

Speaking on the ranking, Gladstein stated in a Brooklyn College press release, "It is a wonderful testament to our creative students, staff, and faculty. It's an incredibly exciting time in the film industry, and we are proud to help nurture the next, great generation of diverse storytellers."

In addition to The Hollywood Reporter's list, MovieMaker also ranked Feirstein as one of the top film schools in the Northeast region of the US, highlighting the school's outstanding production training.

"This is a great school to get an MFA in cinema arts and learn a specialized skill such as directing, cinematography or editing," reads the article.

Discussing the three-year program in depth, Gladstein told MovieMaker, "We are a production-oriented, hands-on program where students will make a minimum of five films. We create an atmosphere where the making of projects is paramount and collaboration is taught and mandatory."

Gladstein accepted the acknowledgment by crediting his Feirstein peers. "Feirstein has assembled a faculty and staff with incredible talents and experience who are dedicated to nurturing the next generation of diverse storytellers," he released in a statement.

Soon-to-be Feirstein graduate Devon Narine-Singh feels that the ranking is well deserved.

"The professors are all very prominent, and it's all at a great price," Singh, a Screen Studies major, told The



Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema./Chris Cooper

Vanguard. "It's a new school, there is a lot happening there. I can't really speak to the production side, but it does seem like they really made an effort to bring interesting speakers."

With this honor, the school is also being shown support by the undergraduate film school at Brooklyn College.

"Feirstein plays an invaluable role in offering graduate students an

unparalleled experience," Maria Conelli, the Dean of the School of Visual, Media and Performing Arts at Brooklyn College, told The Vanguard. "Whether it is regularly connecting students with accomplished artists in the filmmaking industry or teaching from an operating film lot, it is easy to see why Feirstein is being recognized with other leading programs across the country."

PRLS Dept. Launches “West Side Story” Lecture Series

By John Schilling
Managing Editor

Throughout the semester, the Puerto Rican and Latino Studies Department (PRLS) at Brooklyn College will present “West Side Story: The Brooklyn Connection,” an educational lecture series focused on “West Side Story,” the famous play and film that showcases an ongoing turf war between the Jets and Sharks in New York City during the 1950s.

“West Side Story” is a household name in Hollywood and across the theater world, having originally opened in 1957 with a book by Arthur Laurents, music by Leonard Bernstein, and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim. The original film, which was released in 1961, amassed high praise with 10 Academy Award wins, and the story will be re-visualized this coming December when a new version directed by Steven Spielberg will hit theaters.

The lecture series runs in tandem with the course “PRLS.2105: New York Latinx Culture & the Arts,” that meets Mondays and Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. over Zoom. The lectures are moderated by Associate Professor María Pérez y González, the deputy chairperson of the Puerto Rican and Latino Studies Department.

“The course explores the artistic and cultural impact of ‘West Side Story’ through the lenses of the humanities and social sciences, highlighting Puerto Rico’s history



A still from “West Side Story” (2021)./IMDb

with the United States, immigration, ethno-racial relations, gender, gangs, language, music, character analysis, and more,” Brooklyn College’s Media Relations Manager Rich Pietras released in a statement.

The first lecture of the series took place on Wednesday, Sept. 1 with Professor Emerita Virginia Sánchez Korrol, who served as the chairperson of the Puerto Rican and Latino Studies Department from 1989 to 2004. For the series, she has served as a historical consultant, focusing on how the history of Puerto Rican immigration to the United States could have been beneficial or detrimental to the original film version of West Side Story when it was released in 1961.

The next guest on the list is Bobby Sanabria, the composer and percussionist responsible for the “West Side Story Reimagined” album released in 2018, who will offer a lecture on Sept. 20. The other guests with planned

lectures include Tony Kushner, who wrote the screenplay for the 2021 film version, on Sept. 29; Ernesto Acevedo Muñoz, the author of “West Side Story as Cinema: The Making and Impact of an American Masterpiece,” on Oct. 13; Professor Juan González, a journalist and the author of “Harvest of Empire: A History of Latinos in America,” on Oct. 27; Victor Cruz, an actor who plays the shopkeeper in the 2021 film, on Nov. 3; and Jeanine Tesori, a composer who worked as a voice coach for the

2021 film, on Dec. 6.

Since the news of the lecture series, there have been whispers that Steven Spielberg, the director of the 2021 film, may also be a featured guest, but there is no set date as of this moment, and it is unclear if this will come to fruition.

“We are thrilled to have organized this lecture series of special guests connected with the film to share their expertise, experiences, and insight for students as they move through the socio-historic background and artistry

of ‘West Side Story,’” Dr. Pérez y González released in a statement. “We are excited to invite our extended Brooklyn College community, including the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, the School of Visual, Media, and Performing Arts, alumni, and the general public to these free lectures.”

Dr. María Pérez y González and PRLS College Office Assistant Matilda Nistal did not respond to The Vanguard’s request for comment in time for printing.

P R L S

The Department of Puerto Rican and Latino Studies

Brooklyn College • CUNY

PRLS 2105: New York Latinx Culture & the Arts

Presents

West Side Story: The Brooklyn Connection Lecture Series

Promotional image./The Dept of Puerto Rican and Latino Studies

Rolling Rock Rambles: Can Virtual Learning Save CUNY's Crumbling Infrastructure?



Student studying remotely./REDI

By Ian Ezinga
Opinions Editor

I have fond memories of my arrival in New York City and to the Brooklyn College campus. My first apartment was in a bustling “good Jewish neighborhood,” as my landlord described it. The college sported proud New Deal architecture, welcoming green spaces, and the biggest library in the entire borough. Within a few days in the apartment, I became readily acquainted with roach infestations, poor ventilation, mold, leaky pipes, and long overdue electric bills predating my move-in date. The campus, while certainly bearing more hearty fruits, also sulked in water damage, boiling halls, dysfunctional bathrooms, damaged windows, and insultingly vintage facilities throughout.

I moved out of that first apartment and moved on to a second one that was marginally better. Now, a slight mouse problem and

spotty internet are my only complaints. My college’s campus, however, has been shrouded from me for well over a year. I don’t have very high hopes that the aforementioned problems will be solved before I return to campus. Considering CUNY’s previous inability to improve campus infrastructure, and looking at growing trends of virtual learning, it seems we are in store for the continued neglect of our physical spaces in favor of pumping out more degrees earned over the internet.

This might not sound like a terrible outcome to some readers, as there are certainly benefits to remote learning. The pandemic is, of course, the cause of this recent takeover. But as someone who has first-hand experience with just how bad online learning can be, and as someone who places tremendous value on engaging with my learning in person, I am horrified at the possibility of nearing generations losing access to what I believe education

ought to be about - learning from others.

Being in a Zoom room where there are no cameras on, barely any discussion, and with an instructor who might be an overworked adjunct, a technologically inept veteran, or a graduate student who is taking on their first teaching challenge is hardly an environment to facilitate the best possible learning outcomes. But, and this is the important part, the aforementioned scenario is many thousands of dollars cheaper than holding that same class in person. We are charged the same amount, but we can’t get to know the other students, we lose much of our power in spurring meaningful engagement from professors and classmates, and at the end of the day, the classes are often nothing more than a video.

Don’t get me wrong, I’ve had some pretty solid online experiences. But these pale in comparison to running into a professor in the hall, commiserating

with classmates in the quad, or breathing fresh air after being stuck in Boylan Hall for an unusually dry lecture. These are the experiences that solidify our learning as students. We can all watch videos, type up comments, and unmute our mic to say “here,” or be the person to finally answer a professor’s question that is hanging in the air like a cloud of maple syrup. But what is really special about being a student: the excitement, the anxiety, and the feeling of leaving campus having learned something, or at least, tried to, is diminished to the brink of being lost entirely.

It should be clear by now that our experiences as students are not the top priority of CUNY. We must be explicit in our intentions to not just come back from the pandemic, but do so by placing a new emphasis on the quality of our learning rather than shore up our facilities to further the trend of virtual education. There are well-meaning people in every corner of this world. But the history

of CUNY paints a bleak picture of not fighting for funding, raising tuition, and giving more and more of the courses to grossly underpaid and inhumanely overworked adjuncts. These people are heroes, no doubt, but the quality of our education shouldn’t be dependent on their suffering.

In short, I fervently believe in the best possible quality of education for all students. A continuation of the trend we see in remote learning can be seen as nothing more than a detriment to students who hope to connect with their learning on a level beyond what they could obtain watching YouTube videos. While the pandemic certainly has given cause to this mode of education in the present, if we hold what we should value most, then we need to fight for CUNY to pay sufficient attention to the physical spaces that facilitate learning and, more importantly, to the people who are paying to learn something.

Opinion: Get The Vax So This Can Pass

By Melissa Morales
Staff Writer

Looking out my bedroom window, I see people walk down the street. Some of them masked, some of them not. A few greet each other and hug, others speak to one another from some feet away. On the television in the other room, a reporter talks about cases rising again and more younger people becoming at risk for COVID-19.

There are so many questions about the current circumstances that we're living in, so much fear, so much anxiety, and so many doubts about our future. When can I stop wearing a mask? When will I be able to go outside and feel fully free again? When will this pandemic end?

I understand that the world we once knew before the pandemic has long gone with our sense of normalcy, but I do believe that we can gradually reclaim some pieces of our normality again, only if we continue to follow safety precautions. One way I believe that this can be achieved is by getting vaccinated.

The CUNY Chancellor sent out an email last week implementing another vaccine mandate for students. Now I know that there are many who are extremely hesitant and even against getting vaccinated. Will it work? Why are they forcing it on me? What about breakthrough cases? Didn't some people die from the vaccines? I didn't get sick all this time, I don't need it. And the one I hear most of all, I don't trust it.

For many people, potential side effects tend to be the biggest factor in

their hesitation of getting vaccinated. However, most people who get the vaccine only experience short-term side effects such as soreness around where the shot was injected, tiredness, muscle pains, chills, joint pains, and fever. Severe adverse effects, such as anaphylaxis after the vaccination is rare. These cases, according to the CDC, affect only two to five vaccinated people per one million in the US.

While some individuals are skeptical to get vaccinated because of its side effects, for low-income regions and populations, there are many other aspects as to why there is a large prevalence of vaccine hesitancy. According to an article published by researchers Clarissa Simas and Heidi Larson, this hesitancy can stem from marginalization, negative medical experiences, vaccine misinformation on social media, and distrust towards institutions and authorities.

Not to mention, for many of these individuals, there is a more general problem revolving around lack of access. Whether it's health literacy, internet access, or even the inability to get a vaccine appointment, feeling precluded from such a huge process can be alienating.

In addition to the disparities in vaccination rates, there are also discrepancies in COVID-related deaths with a disproportionate impact on Black and Hispanic communities, who have experienced higher rates of hospitalizations and deaths. This, in turn, has caused further mistrust of the vaccines and the health system in general.

Nonetheless, the vaccines are proven



A doctor administering the COVID-19 vaccine to a patient./EmblemHealth.com

to be safe, effective, and protective against COVID-19 and the even far deadlier Delta variant. According to a report by the CDC, between Feb. 1 and Aug. 6, vaccine effectiveness was 87 percent among US veterans and remains highly effective during periods of widespread circulation of the Delta variant. While the vaccines may cause mild but expected side effects, and the possibility of breakthrough cases still exists, vaccines offer highly effective protection against hospitalization. Booster shots are also recommended for people with weaker immune systems to increase the efficacy rates against COVID-19.

Consequently, I believe that the decision to mandate the vaccine for all in-person and hybrid students at CUNY schools is extremely reasonable and rational. The vaccines are developed to fight the virus and especially now that it is FDA approved, students should understand how

important it is to get vaccinated for themselves and their loved ones. I also believe that, in addition to getting vaccinated, students should still get tested for the possibility of breakthrough cases and monitor their symptoms regularly to ensure full safety during these unpredictable circumstances that we're living in.

I think that for the time being, students who are remote and are mandated to take the vaccine to visit their campus should be allowed to if they are using the Everbridge app and are there for a short while. If it does not involve hands-on activity or a long duration of time on campus grounds, I think we can accommodate people who may lack access or information about CUNY protocol.

Because the CUNY Chancellor's email about remote students having to get vaccinated (if they wish to enter campus for any reason and have not been granted a religious or

medical exemption) was late notice, in my opinion. Some students may not meet the deadlines to get vaccinated on time. Therefore, unless the deadline can be extended for remote students for when they have to get vaccinated, a negative test and symptom tracking should be enough to clear a visit to campus and ensure continued enrollment.

In order for all of us to regain some of the normalcy we all crave, people need to continue taking all the necessary safety precautions. Which, in case you have forgotten is social distancing, double masking, washing hands thoroughly, and most importantly, getting vaccinated. For individuals living in low-income regions and populations, looking into community partnerships, grassroots movements, and having friends or family members research local clinics, pharmacies, and healthcare systems is extremely important.

BC Alum Grace Martinez-Espina's Rise to Stardom

By Johan Abdu
Staff Writer

Basketball is a game famous for its break-neck pace. You're charging down the baseline, rising through a sea of defenders, laying up what looks to be a perfect shot, but in the blink of an eye, the ball bounces off the backboard, and you're wheeling around in the other direction, adjusting on the fly.

It is exactly this unpredictability that makes the game such a potent metaphor for life. Perhaps, no one can attest to this better than Brooklyn College alumna Grace Martinez-Espina.

Martinez-Espina graduated from Brooklyn College in 2019, and now, the former Bulldogs point guard laces up for Águilas de Guachupita, the professional basketball team in the Dominican Republic's women's league.

"It's actually really funny how everything happened," Martinez-Espina told The Vanguard. A month before signing with Águilas, the 25-year-old point guard received a tryout for the Westchester Shooting Stars, a Yonkers-based semi-pro team. She had made the team and already agreed to personal terms, but life had other plans.

A few days before joining Westchester, Martinez-Espina received a call on her phone from Mike Creppy, the CEO of Vindicated Sports, the basketball talent agency of which she was a client. Creppy called with an offer that was too good to pass on.

"He calls me and reaches out to me almost, like, in a frantic haze... like, 'Are you available to talk right now?.... There is this team, out in the

Dominican Republic, that wants you,'" explained Martinez-Espina. "It was essentially like, 'They want you now, they want to know how soon can you be there, we have a contract written up for you already.'"

In a span of 72 hours, Martinez-Espina, a Dominican-American, quickly saw herself on a plane to go play pro-ball in a familiar place on unfamiliar territory, something she would not have anticipated years before.

Born in Cortland, New York, Martinez-Espina and her family moved to Freeport in Hempstead, Long Island soon after her birth.

"I didn't actually start playing until I was in Long Island because that is when my mom remarried my now stepdad, and he's the one who taught me everything I know about basketball," said Martinez-Espina. "He was a former police officer for Nassau County, and they used to have a basketball league, and I remember going to the games, and I was just in awe of watching everything that he was doing."

After winning a state championship in 2010 for Kellenberg Memorial High School, Martinez-Espina would soon be recruited by Fairleigh Dickinson University (FDU-Florham) in New Jersey to play for their coveted Division 3 team. She, however, did not sign in time to play for FDU's team and lost her roster spot as a result.

While attending the school for two years, she would eventually take on a managerial role for the team while developing her game, practicing, learning, and hoping that, along the way, a roster spot



Grace Martinez-Espina playing for the BC Bulldogs./@D3Direct on Twitter

would come at the end of the season.

"Those two years were very, very difficult for me because I went from playing basketball all the time to not playing anymore and now having my confidence basically just shot all the way down into the ground," said Martinez-Espina. "I was very lost."

When her sophomore year at the school came about, however, she saw a turnaround in her grades, fitness and most importantly, her mentality, shifting towards finding a way out of FDU and towards more minutes on the court. She picked up the phone to dial every coach and assistant coach around SUNY and CUNY for a chance at a tryout, willing to take any offer that would come her way.

It was the Brooklyn College Bulldogs' Head Coach Alex Lang that was the first to give her a shot.

"He had given me the green light, like, 'Yep, sure, you can come here, you can try out but I will warn you...we have seven returning seniors and three new transfers coming in.' But I didn't even care

about that because all I heard was 'You have a shot to try out'...and that's all I needed," said Martinez-Espina.

Both Coach Lang and Assistant Coach Amalea Sideris were pivotal to her development at Brooklyn College. Martinez-Espina finished her senior year with 5.7 points a game, 23 steals, and memorable performances all around, despite a heartbreaking championship loss for the team that year.

The most notable matches for Martinez-Espina includes her 14-point game as a starter against Baruch College in early 2019 and at York College during the 2017-18 season, but she always looks fondly at her performance against Hunter College in January 2019 and winning the CUNYAC Championship in 2018.

Since then, Grace Martinez-Espina has felt humbled at Águilas, figuring out new ways to improve as a point guard. As for how she keeps it all together--the key to it all is balance, and Martinez-Espina seems to be thriving.

"I'm a hustler by

nature. I'm always in the hustle and bustle of doing something," said Martinez-Espina. "And then after that one thing, I'm moving on to the next thing and then after that, I'm doing something else, and then I'm waking up and doing it all over again."

This past year, Grace started "Crossed Up with Grace," her very own podcast for basketball players and athletes alike that want to link and strengthen the relationship between their mindset and their faith. Grace, a practicing Catholic, emphasizes the importance of her faith to her game.

If you've listened to my first episode and know about my story, the two biggest things that helped me throughout this journey was my faith and my mindset," Martinez-Espina told The Vanguard. "To show them that, these two things can help you immensely, whether you are Catholic or you follow another religion or if you don't follow any religion at all...having that belief in yourself and that belief in some higher power, along with building up your mental skills, those two things can take you so far."

Jose Castillo Hired As New BC Women's Soccer Coach

By Billy Wood
Staff Writer

On Aug. 27, Brooklyn College Athletics announced that Jose "Tito" Castillo would be the new Head Coach for Brooklyn College's Women's Soccer program. He becomes the third head coach since the program started in 2012.

"We are very happy to be able to bring a coach like Jose on board who has experience at a number of levels and is very familiar with the CUNYAC," Brooklyn College Director of Athletics Bruce Filosa released in a statement.

Castillo has spent the last three seasons at York College, a fellow CUNYAC member, where he was instrumental in developing its Women's Soccer program.

"Jose has been involved as a coach/



Courtesy of BC Athletics

administrator for most of his adult life," added Filosa. In his final season with York, the team closed out the 2019 season unbeaten in four of their final six games, finishing the year off with a record of 3-11-1.

Castillo has arrived at Brooklyn College with over fifteen years of experience. Before coaching at Brooklyn, he was able to gain

experience from of the sport is working with the New York Cosmos Training and Development program from 2013 to 2017, and the Albertson Soccer Club since 2005. He also holds coaching licenses from the United Soccer Coaches (NSCAA), United States Soccer Federation (USSF), and United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA). "His knowledge is

exceptional and he is an excellent recruiter," stated Filosa. "We look forward to a long relationship and a return to the CUNYAC Championship."

The Bulldogs have had two games already and currently have a 0-2-0 record. In the process, they have conceded 14 goals and have failed to score. Their next game is against Rutgers-

Newark at home where they hope to pick up their first win of the season.

Jose "Tito" Castillo did not respond to The Vanguard's request for comment.



Vinny The Goat by Mo Muhsin and Gabrielle Toro Vivoni



Brooklyn College Sports Recap

Women's Soccer Off To Rough Start

By Owen Russell
Sports Editor

The Bulldogs took the field for the first time in nearly two years on Sept. 8, facing St. Joseph's College (LI). The game was the first action BC's athletic field has seen since the 2019 CUNYAC Championship. Despite the home court advantage, Brooklyn College was unable to keep up with the Golden Eagles, losing 11-0.

"It was great to see the team out there competing today," said new Head Coach Jose Castillo in the game recap. "We gave a great effort and showed many qualities that will serve us well in the future."

After the tough loss to start the season, the Bulldogs hosted the Gryphons from Sarah Lawrence College. The team was able to play better defense this time around, allowing only three goals. Unfortunately, the Bulldogs

were held scoreless, and ended up losing their second straight. Brooklyn was only able to fire off three shots, two of which were on goal. Comparing that to the Gryphons' 26 shots with 15 on goal, it is easy to see where the Bulldogs were outmatched.

Brooklyn will play their third straight home game against Rutgers (Newark) this Wednesday, Sept. 15.



Courtesy of @bklyn_bulldogs on Instagram.

Men's Soccer Struggles Despite Strong Defense

By Owen Russell
Sports Editor



Courtesy of @bklyn_bulldogs on Instagram.

The Men's Soccer team opened their season in Union, NJ, playing in Kean University's Tony Ochrimenko Classic on Sept. 4. The Bulldogs dropped their first game against the Kean Cougars. The Bulldogs were held scoreless, allowing 3 goals to the home team. The next day, Brooklyn College played

the Pioneers from William Patterson. The Bulldogs had seven saves on eight goals, allowing only one goal. Despite the strong defensive effort, the Bulldogs lost 1-0.

On Saturday, Sept. 11, Brooklyn played their home opener against Old Westbury. Prior to the game's start, a moment of silence was held for Joseph Real Andre, the team's former coach who passed away in Dec. 2020. The game

saw Brooklyn's first goal of the year scored by freshman Angel Godinez. The goal gave Brooklyn an early lead, but Old Westbury came back firing. The Panthers scored four goals after Brooklyn's first, while Brooklyn only notched one more. The loss was Brooklyn's third in a row.

The Bulldogs' most recent contest came on Sept. 13 against Farmingdale, which also ended in defeat,

totaling four losses in the new season so far. Despite nine attempts, the Bulldogs could not get any of their shots on goal. Defensively, Brooklyn had four saves but allowed two goals. The Rams won 2-0 and sent the Bulldogs home still searching for their first win.

Brooklyn's next game will be home against SUNY Purchase on Sept. 15.

Women's Volleyball Starts Off Strong

By Owen Russell
Sports Editor

The women's volleyball team was Brooklyn's first team to return to competition after nearly two years away. On Sept. 3, the Bulldogs kicked off the season on the road against the US Merchant Marine Academy. The future Marines swept the Bulldogs 3-0, dishing the Bulldogs a loss in their first game. Brooklyn was held to under 20 points in each of the

three sets.

The initial loss lit a fire under the Bulldogs as they have won three in a row since then, the first of which came on Sept. 7 against Sarah Lawrence. The Bulldogs swept the Gryphons. The sets went 25-17, 25-19, and 27-25. Freshman outside hitter Aleah Rafat led the Bulldogs with 15 kills.

The second win came two days later at SUNY Purchase. The Bulldogs dominated in all three sets,

going 25-12, 25-11, and 25-17. The win gave the Bulldogs not only their second straight win but also their second straight sweep. Sophomore outside hitter Ashley Fung led the team with 9 kills, helping the Bulldogs outmatch the Panthers 35 kills to just 15.

The third and most recent win came up in Throggs Neck against Maritime. If the Bulldogs were dominant against Purchase then they were out of this world against the Privateers. Brooklyn

College won all three sets in easy fashion, going 25-9, 25-6, and 25-13. The Bulldogs scored 23 aces compared to Maritime's five. Junior setter Ezri Shor led the way with six aces and 15 assists. Brooklyn's win against Maritime marked three consecutive sweeps for the Bulldogs, putting them at three wins and one loss.

As of press time, the Bulldogs were set to play next on Sept. 14 against St. Joseph's College.



Courtesy of @bklyn_bulldogs on Instagram.

Women's Tennis Season Opener Postponed

By Elijah Hamilton
Staff Writer



Courtesy of @bklyn_bulldogs on Instagram.

The Brooklyn College Women's Tennis team is coming off an up-and-down week, one that saw

two of their first three games of the season get postponed.

Their season opener on the road against Fairleigh

Dickinson University in Madison, NJ was postponed due to bad weather conditions, according to Brooklyn College Athletics.

In the one game played last week, the Bulldogs suffered a 3-6 loss at home against the visiting Sarah Lawrence College Gryphons.

Though it ended in

a loss, it was an admirable performance from BC who was able to win one of three doubles matches against the Gryphons behind the strong play of sophomore Monica Prado Capon and freshman Kamilla Shulanova.

Brooklyn also picked up a win in singles competition against the Gryphons with senior

Kamilla Shulanova. Although a losing effort, this game marked the first for the Bulldogs since fall 2019.

The Bulldogs will look to get their first win of the season when they play on the road in a two-game slate against SUNY Purchase and Kean University.

BC Receives Backlash Over Spectator Policy



Brooklyn College Bulldogs logo./BCAthletics.org

By Owen Russell
Sports Editor

After a year and a half of remote learning, students are still feeling the effects of COVID-19 restrictions. Some classes are on campus, while most remain on Zoom. Some buildings are open, but others remain closed. And as summer fades into fall, sports are back, but the fans are not.

The Brooklyn College athletic year kicked off on Sept. 3, when the Women's Volleyball team played their first game against the US Merchant Marine Academy. The team went on to lose that game 3 matches to 0, and though the loss was disappointing,

perhaps more disappointing for the Brooklyn Bulldogs was the announcement that there would be no spectators allowed at Brooklyn College sporting events.

"The Brooklyn College Athletic Department is prioritizing safety while teams return to athletics this fall," Bruce Filosa, the Director of Recreation, Intramurals, and Intercollegiate, told the Vanguard. "While we would love to bring back fans as soon as possible, our attention is now focused on doing everything we can to have our teams ready to play in an environment that is safe for everyone." Filosa added that fans are encouraged to

check out Brooklyn the Sept. 11 attacks. College's athletic Madison Square Garden and the Barclays Center have allowed 100 percent attendance since May. Concert venues are open, restaurants allow indoor dining, and 60.7 percent of eligible New Yorkers are fully vaccinated as of press time, according to NYC.gov. The question on some BC members' minds is, "If not now, when?"

Despite the apologetic tone in Athletic's statement, fans are not having any of it.

"That is a ridiculous and stupid policy," said one Instagram user (@bklynballking), who commented under a post detailing the spectator rules. The user went on, adding, "If I can enter Yankee Stadium or Barclays Center without a mask, no reason you guys should be closed to spectators."

Last Saturday night, Citi Field hosted a crowd at full capacity for the 20th anniversary of extreme is the right

way to go.

"I feel like Yankee Stadium maybe shouldn't be filled all the way," Byrnes told The Vanguard, "but I think it's possible to open the soccer field to at least half capacity." Byrnes notes that in her first year at Brooklyn College she used to enjoy sitting with friends and cheering on the women's soccer team.

As many BC sports fans remain confused, some even angry, the Athletics administration has remained under fire. And while the Bulldogs play in silent gymnasiums, fans are only left to wait and see how the policy plays out in the weeks to come.