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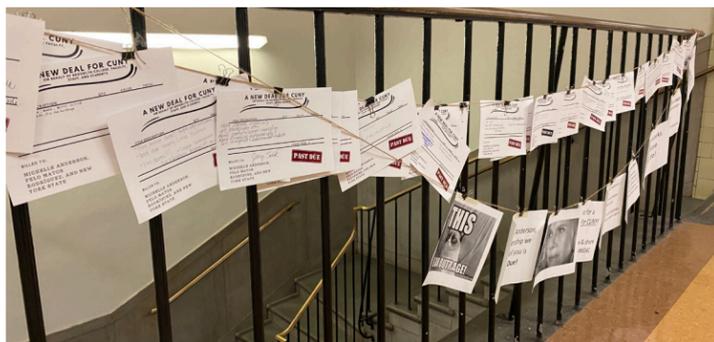
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PSC Union Shows 'Past Due' Demands Outside BC Prez's Office



PSC members collected around 300 slips from students for the action. / *Gabriela Flores*

By Gabriela Flores
Editor-in-Chief

Faculty members of the Professional Staff Congress union hung a clothesline with “past due” invoices that listed student demands outside President Michelle Anderson’s office. The display last Thursday, Mar. 2 in Boylan Hall is one of several rolling actions the PSC is organizing across campuses in support of the New Deal for CUNY, a bill that calls for free tuition among other resources.

“We want to live in a state and in a society that values public higher education, and in order to value higher public education, we have to fund it,” said Professor Carolina Bank Muñoz, the chair for the PSC chapter at Brooklyn College. Though the state’s governor has recently passed “the largest year over year budget for CUNY in a very long time,” according to Bank Muñoz, more investments are needed.

“We need so much more

money coming into our system because it’s not just two years of disinvestment, it’s 30 years of disinvestment,” she said.

The action collected over 300 slips from students, who were mostly informed by professors about the effort and its support for the New Deal for CUNY. Among the written demands were free MetroCards, better pay for adjuncts, more funding for immigrant and international students, and lower tuition costs. Each slip was labeled “past due” and addressed to President Anderson, CUNY Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez, New York State legislature, and Governor Kathy Hochul, whose state funding for CUNY mostly supports senior, four-year colleges like BC.

“I wrote one [slip] because there is a clear lack of resources for CUNY students. Basic necessities like working projectors, clean bathrooms, and food options within campus are not being given,” wrote student Nailah Hoque

to The Vanguard, noting she found out about the action from her English professor. “CUNY was a free institution and now, students are paying high costs for low standards.”

CUNY was formerly free for eligible students who resided in the city from its 1847 inception till 1976, according to the Gotham Gazette. Recently, the chancellors of CUNY and SUNY publicly supported Governor Hochul’s proposal to increase tuition for their respective university bodies by 3%, as reported by NY1. Among the invoice-like slips on Thursday’s display, one note stated that NY has an “\$8 billion surplus, but CUNY wants to lay off part-time faculty & staff.” The action is also backdropped by pending budget cuts across the university’s 25 campuses, with BC set to submit over \$9 million in “budget saving recommendations” for the 2024 fiscal year by Mar. 17, according to an open budget forum held on Feb. 23. To address its structural deficit and pending budget cuts, the college has created a fiscal review and advisory committee that includes student, staff, and faculty representatives.

Through recent lobbying efforts, President Anderson and other administrators have called on elected officials to provide more funding for BC and the university overall.

“We need additional

operational support to help address our structural deficit, which is due primarily to two things -- decreases in enrollment and related tuition revenue and historic unfunded mandatory costs increases,” Anderson wrote in a statement to The Vanguard. The president and her team are asking the state to reimplement the former funding formula of CUNY receiving 40% of the higher education budget and SUNY the remaining 60%. For BC, more state funds could lead to expanded resources through the “renovation of Roosevelt Hall and Ingersoll Hall,” according to Anderson.

“I appreciate that these concerns were shared with me and I am working with my leadership team to determine how we can best address those concerns that are within our control,” she wrote in reference to the PSC’s recent display.

Campuses like Borough of Manhattan Community College have led similar actions in support of the New Deal For CUNY, publicly displaying the bill’s demands while calling on the university, state, and their respective colleges to do more for their students and faculty. Through its efforts, PSC aims to see the bill’s plans come to fruition and for CUNY to be fully funded.

“We of course hope that it will pass this year,” said Bank Muñoz.

BC Commencement Updates: Senior Photos, Deadlines, And More

By Radwan Farraj
Staff Writer

The BC Commencement Team released its monthly newsletter for March providing further details on commencement, which is scheduled to take place at Barclays Center on Jun. 2 at 9 AM. Students who are eligible to attend, but are not receiving the Commencement Newsletter, are encouraged to subscribe.

The ceremony is held once at the end of each academic year. Students who have completed their graduation requirements and applied for graduation for the fall 2022, winter 2023, spring 2023, or summer 2023

semesters are eligible to attend. Students who did not apply for spring 2023 graduation by the deadline have until Mar. 15 to apply for summer 2023.

All attending graduates will have their names called at the ceremony, and in partnership with Marching Order, a graduation services and software company, will have the opportunity to submit a recording of the correct pronunciation of their names. Further instructions will be sent out on Mar. 27 to the preferred email addresses that students have on CUNYFirst and BC WebCentral. The deadline for recording submissions is May 6.

On-campus senior photo



Edited by Gabriela Flores

sessions will be held between Monday, Mar. 20 and Thursday, Mar. 23 by appointment. More information about appointment booking and location will be sent out in the coming days.

Students with additional questions or who require accessible accommodations

for commencement are asked to fill out the Commencement Questions form on BC’s website. Those students who would like to invite guests from overseas are encouraged to digitally submit an Invitation Letter Application for Overseas Guests no later than Apr. 21.

Three Tickets In USG Prez Race, Elections Set For Mar. 20 – Mar. 31



Edited by Gabriela Flores

By Gabriela Flores
Editor-In-Chief

After an uncontested election last year, the Undergraduate Student

Government has received three tickets for its top executive positions: president and vice president, which run under one slate. The first slate includes USG leaders Carrie

Ebbin and Huda Ayaz, who are currently serving as the body's vice president and club director, respectively. Asma Ramisa and Yafa Abulawi are petitioning under the second

slate with their #RecreatingBC campaign. Club leaders Malak Yafai and Hozifa Sowkat also bid for president and vice president.

As of press time, the slates have five days remaining until their Mar. 13 deadline, when they must submit 400 signatures from enrolled BC undergraduates to have their names added to the ballot. Signatures do not count toward the election of a president and vice president ticket. Following this period known as petitioning, a slate's collected signatures and EMPLIDs will be verified. Once validated, a presidential slate can have their names included on the ballot for election season. Voting is set to begin for Brooklyn College undergraduates on Mar. 20 until Mar. 31.

The Vanguard interviewed

the three slates, all of which are women candidates. They discussed their plans for Brooklyn College's campus climate, ongoing enrollment struggles, and other student issues they intend to address if elected.

Undergraduate students who are interested in petitioning for a presidential slate, or the student government's referendum proposing an increase in student activity fees, can visit the following website to provide their signature: <https://go.bcstudentgov.org/petition>. For more information on the candidates running for elected positions this spring, including Student Senate, visit: <https://bit.ly/USGCandidates>.

USG's First Prez Slate: Carrie Ebbin and Huda Ayaz

By Shlomie Katash
Staff Writer

The candidates on the first slate for president and vice president are campaigning strongly on the platform of being familiar faces around campus. Carrie Ebbin and Huda Ayaz are running for president and vice president, looking to use their prior experiences in USG to continue building a campus community that uplifts all its students.

Ebbin is a sophomore in the Macaulay Honors program, studying business with a concentration in marketing. She is serving as vice president alongside Aharon Grama, USG's president. Her inspiration to get involved sprung from personal experiences of having student government help her in her first semester as a freshman, where she imagined she could do the same for others. Ebbin understood early on that she could best support her campus peers through student governance. She eventually

became a senator that spring, the first semester she could, and ran for vice president soon after.

Her running mate Ayaz is a sophomore studying multimedia computing, who became USG's current club director after working with various organizations on campus in her first year. "I was exploring a lot in freshman year in general. I went to lots of different club meetings, I met a lot of people through my classes and whatnot, and the topic always just comes up about what issues you're having in school," Ayaz said. At the start of this past fall, she assumed her current position in USG.

As evidenced by their enthusiasm to work for BC students, both Ebbin and Ayaz cite their passion for helping others as one of their principle drives as candidates.

"I think we're both pretty driven and motivated and passionate. We both really like helping people in general. That makes you want to get involved in USG," Ebbin said.

They noted their shared interest and passion for student governance and advocacy as some of the main reasons they believe they can accomplish their priorities for leading USG.

"I'm looking forward to making changes that students actually want to see on campus," Ayaz added. "And I'd say both of us, we can be pretty focused, and we have a goal that we want to accomplish and we want to see it come to fruition."

The ticket hopes to utilize their experience to successfully lead a team in USG that correctly and fully advocates for students. In doing so, they hope to further diversify the students voices USG hears, especially since BC has "a broad spectrum of diversity," Ebbin explained.

As incumbents of student government, the first slate will continue what they have started if elected, including improving the Boylan cafeteria, diversity equity and inclusion, advocating for an affordable CUNY, improved



(L to R) USG Presidential Candidate Carrie Ebbin and USG VP Candidate Huda Ayaz. *Gabriela Flores*

infrastructure, and a hunger-free campus.

To help combat declining enrollment and retention, a pressing issue both BC and CUNY-wide, the duo hopes to host more community events to make Brooklyn College a more attractive place to enroll and stay in.

"I think those really make people more excited to be on campus and make them want to stay," Ebbin said. "Statistics show that when students are

part of a community like that, they want to stay in college."

The slate believes, though, that more goes into a campus-for-all than just hosting enjoyable events. "With a campus that's advocating for you, that's making the campus a place that people want to be, we hope that people would want to stay for that," Ayaz added.

USG Second Prez Slate: Asma Ramisa and Yafa Abulawi



USG President Candidate Asma Ramisa and VP Candidate Yafa Abulawi./*Gabriela Flores*

By Michela Arlia
Managing Editor

On the second Undergraduate Student Government presidential slate this election season is Asma Ramisa and Yafa Abulawi, who are running for president and vice president, respectively.

Ramisa, a junior at BC, and Abulawi, a sophomore,

first met in an introductory psychology course, where they immediately hit it off. Since they share similar values on what could be improved at Brooklyn College, they decided to join the race for USG's next leading heads.

"Trust is also huge, we trust each other's capabilities a ton, so we knew we would make good running partners," wrote

the pair in a statement to The Vanguard.

At the age of 8, Ramisa moved to Brooklyn from her birthplace Bangladesh and is currently pursuing a computer science major. Abulawi is a communication science and disorders major who was born and raised in Brooklyn with Palestinian roots.

Using their official campaign slogan #RecreatingBC, the pair plan to tackle big-ticket campus issues, including student life and the quality of education BC offers. Using their platform to speak to students and hear their concerns, Ramisa and Abulawi aim to make the student voice the drive of their campaign and their entire run in office, should they be elected.

"Ultimately, our goal as the executive branch will be to take note of the experiences of the students around us, and implement those concerns into real action plans for

improvement," they wrote.

Two serious issues circulating on campus are the continuing decline in student enrollment and the allegations of anti-semitism and discrimination circling the student population. These issues are ones that speak loudly to the candidates and are of importance for their campaign.

To aid in increasing enrollment and retention, Ramisa and Abulawi plan to increase outreach and marketing strategies if elected. On the anti-semitism and discrimination front, the ticket plans to unify campus, as discrimination is a topic that has a personal connection to them.

"As people of color, we have both experienced the devastating effects discrimination has had on our lives and the lives of our fellow community members," wrote the duo, explaining that their best efforts to unify the

campus would be through exposure. "We want to make sure that the different groups on campus are able to express themselves in any way they feel necessary and feel safe and comfortable doing so."

As fresh faces to the USG campaign trails, Ramisa and Abulawi intend to bring changes to the student government.

"We ran because we believe we can make real change on campus, and that things in the USG have been stagnant these past few years," they wrote.

In hopes of broadening the line of communication between USG leaders and students if elected, Ramisa and Abulawi hold strong in their belief that their campaign can offer a new perspective to BC students come election time.

"Although we don't have prior USG experience, we believe that our fresh perspective can really shake things up for our campus," they said.

USG's Third Prez Slate: Malak Yafai and Hozifa Sowkat

By Gabriela Flores
Editor-in-Chief

Punching in the third ticket for the USG presidential race are Malak Yafai and her running mate Hozifa Sowkat, two Brooklyn College sophomores. As student leaders who are active in their respective clubs, the duo is committed to leading the student body with inclusivity, mental health wellness, and student engagement at the forefront of their campaign. Together, they hope to promote a safe, supportive campus culture while actively addressing student needs.

If elected, they hope to lead a student government that carries its constituents' interests in mind.

"I hope to have a clear vision and mission that reflects the values and priorities of its members. This can help to guide decision-making and ensure that the organization is working towards common goals," wrote presidential

candidate Yafai in a statement to The Vanguard. "[...] This includes identifying and empowering talented leaders, promoting transparency and accountability, and fostering a culture of collaboration and inclusivity."

Yafai is a Muslim American who emigrated from her native Yemen to the United States, serving as the vice president of the Bridges for Yemen club. Sowkat is also a Muslim American, hailing from Bangladesh and arriving in Brooklyn at only four years old. The pair met through a Muslims Giving Back event, where Sowkat serves as secretary. They connected through club collaborations and joined the presidential race given their shared "enthusiasm, commitment, and willingness to seize opportunities," according to Sowkat.

"Given our shared passion and excitement, we would form an excellent team," she further explained, noting Yafai

had approached her with the idea of running on the same slate.

Being one of the most ethnically diverse colleges in the north region, BC's campus environment and its inclusivity are chief factors the duo intends to improve if elected. To address allegations of discrimination at the college, they plan to implement educational programs and workshops; clear policies and procedures that prohibit discrimination and allow students to report incidents; as well as provide open support groups. Concerning mental health wellness, they envision increasing support and resources that help students not only academically, but personally too. Boosting student engagement is another goal of theirs, where they hope to expand learning opportunities, better support student organizations and initiatives, and help students in their pursuit of academic and professional success.



(L to R) USG's President Candidate Malak Yafai and VP Candidate Hozifa Sowkat./*Gabriela Flores*

"Me and my partner have asked many Brooklyn College students around campus in the changes they want to see in the future, and most of the answers we got were about the expansion in the networking opportunities around school," wrote Yafai, explaining that the pandemic impacted students' interactions and motivation, which she and Sowkat hope to improve.

Through their intended

efforts to better resources and experiences for students on campus, they believe they will be able to "draw a lot of attention" to BC.

"I believe campus activities and organizations [are] what would make a great contribution with boosting enrollment rate," Yafai wrote, noting campus climate also plays a significant factor.

NABA Hosts Black Excellence Gala, Awards Black Student Leaders



NABA President Jessica Vaivao spoke at the Gala's opening./*Emmad Kashmiri*

By Serin Sarsour
Features Editor

Reporting Assistance By
Gabriela Flores
Editor-in-Chief

As this year's Black History Month came to a close, Brooklyn College's National Association of Black Accountants hosted a Night of Black Excellence Gala last Tuesday, Feb. 28. Student leaders in the BC community were recognized and awarded for their hard work on campus. The gala was co-hosted by the Black History Month Committee and the S.A.I.L. Center, as well as co-sponsored by the BC Undergraduate Student Government and the Black and Latino Male Initiative.

To kick off the night where attendees dressed to impress, BC senior and co-host of the event, Amara Minott, described what Black excellence means to her. "It's embracing who you are. It's being authentic. It's having self-love. And not taking no for an answer," she said.

Following the opening remarks, Jessica Bobadilla was invited onto the stage to sing the "Black National Anthem - Lift Every Voice and Sing." Married couple Monique Ngozi Nri and Ahmed Abdullah performed poetry shortly after.

"The purpose of the Night of Black Excellence is to show the world that we're still here even through the pain of our ancestors, brothers, sisters, family, and friends, and that we have a voice, a community, and a presence on campus and in the world," said Jessica Vaivao, a BC junior and the president of NABA.

Before the award winners were announced, Shemeka Brathwaite, the gala's keynote speaker and the program manager for NYC Men Teach at Brooklyn College, shared a few words. Recalling her past challenges, Brathwaite told participants how she pushed the limits and expectations of those around her, including when she garnered funds to study abroad in London and Paris as a fashion design student. In sharing her struggles and perseverance as a student, she hoped the audience could resonate with her experiences.

"If only you could see the view that I could see at this very moment. A room filled with a beautiful mosaic of unlimited, exponential potential," Brathwaite said in her opening. "A room where you are appreciated, loved, and celebrated."

After feasting on a range of foods, including oxtail and sushi, the organizers announced the night's

awards. Minott won big, earning the Health and Wellness Academic Excellence Award, as well as the award for Humanities and Social Science Academic Excellence. In her acceptance speech for her second award of the night, Minott expressed her gratitude to the BC Anime and Manga Club as she is the president, and to the Personal Counseling Center at BC.

"As an aspiring mental health counselor, I hope I can help my community, the Black community, the Afro-Caribbean community, who sees mental health as taboo. And make mental health affordable and accessible," said Minott, noting her

own struggles with mental health.

Minott's speech resonated with many, including Vaivao. In fact, one of Vaivao's favorite parts about the event was hearing Minott speak about her life because she could relate to her struggles as a Black woman.

Alongside Minott, BC freshman Cyle Paul also co-hosted the gala. "It was an exciting experience and I am grateful to be noticed as someone who could do what it qualified. A little nerve-racking at first, but being it was for a good cause overrides that," Paul told *The Vanguard*.

Vaivao was another award winner that night, winning both the Malcolm X Black Leadership Award and the W.E.B. Du Bois Economic Leadership Award. Each award was named after a historical figure that connected to the theme of the specific award. The Black Leadership Award recognized and celebrated Vaivao as a leader on campus who engages in and fights in topics relating to the Black/BIPOC community, as well as uplifting the community and working toward its betterment. On the other hand, the award for Economic Leadership recognized Vaivao as

a student leader who has guided her campus community to economic excellence through entrepreneurialism, jobs, internships, and more.

"At a moment, I felt undeserving or an imposter for my Malcolm X Black Leadership Award because I look up to other Black leaders on campus, such as Amara Minott [...] However, reflecting on it now, I feel more confident in my award because I did relaunch NABA, I did fix and create the NABA clubroom with my members," Vaivao said. "I will continue to do more for my community."

After awards were handed out, guests were treated to a final performance. Those in attendance appreciated the opportunity to celebrate young Black minds ready to change the world.

"We are excellent because we are still suffering from racial inequality, racism, colorism, prejudice, and anti-Blackness and yet still rise to do better in our communities and have a focus on building a better future for our descendants," Vaivao told *The Vanguard*. "A Night of Black Excellence is a night of Black celebration of our existence as a community."



The gala's dinner set-up./*Gabriela Flores*

Leslie Ramirez Carbajal, ISSO's New Program Coordinator



Courtesy of Leslie Ramirez Carbajal

By Gabriela Flores
Editor-in-Chief

Full-circle moments can appear coincidental. But for Leslie Ramirez Carbajal, the Immigrant Student Success Office's new program coordinator, aiding students regardless of their documentation status has seemingly been predestined for her as a formerly undocumented student. At the heart of her drive to help Brooklyn College students is her push to help her communities, her Mexican roots, and most of all, people like her mother.

"It feels like a full-circle moment because I see myself in them [students]," said Ramirez Carbajal.

At 24 years old, the John Jay graduate has long advocated for others, whether it be developing an immigrant student center in her alma mater or helping constituents living in her borough, The Bronx. Before becoming the leader she is today, Ramirez Carbajal made the long journey to The Bronx from her Mexican town San Nicolás Tolentino in Izúcar de Matamoros at three years old with her mom. Growing up undocumented in the States, young Ramirez Carbajal was aware

of her status and the limited resources that were available to her. Nonetheless, she found a home away from home, facing challenges and uncertainties head-on.

"It still felt like we had a little piece of Mexico with us," she said about her neighborhood.

With the support of her family members, she dreamed big, even thinking of potentially becoming America's president.

"I remember there was one time I told my uncle, 'I want to be the president of the United States.' Mind you, I knew I was undocumented, but yeah, I just wanted to be the president," she said. "And he was like, 'Perfect. Plan a strategy and with hard work, you'll get there.'"

The *echale ganas* mentality, where hard work pays off, is prevalent in her family. As she noticed later in life, however, the accessibility of resources and opportunities plays a significant role in success. Being a straight-A student in high school and a curious learner did not grant her the same experiences her peers had, including a school trip to France or a full ride to a university.

Back in her sophomore year of high school, she began the long legal process

of applying for residency. At one point, she questioned if she would be able to attend college and apply for financial aid. Despite her worries, Ramirez Carbajal remembered the sacrifices her mother made by leaving behind her life in Mexico, where she thrived in social work. Hearing about her mother's college experiences and love for her former occupation motivated Ramirez Carbajal to pursue a similar experience for herself.

"I was like, it's been a lot of years since my mom has seen her family. It should be worth it for something, which I realized wasn't the best way to think about it, but I think that was something that helped drive me to continue and look for help," she said.

It took four years for the community advocate to gain her residency. After high school, she went on to Bronx Community College before she transferred to John Jay, where she double-majored in Spanish Legal Interpreter/Translator and Criminal Justice. November 17, 2018, officially marked the end of an unpredictable wait, during which she faced moments of anger and guilt, but saw that patience is essential while applying for documentation.

"It made me think, all this work for this little card," she said laughing.

Being someone who dealt with the country's immigration system firsthand, she understands its shortcomings, especially for the students she works with today at ISSO.

"We're very behind in how we're approaching immigration. Especially with DACA being in the limbo for so long, so it's just crumbs for our students in having to pay the fee, getting the social security, and the work permit for two years. I would say we're definitely behind, and there's a lot of unsureness when it comes to applying," said Ramirez Carbajal.

Once she was able to hug her family members in her native Mexico, the reality of her documentation status sank in. After transferring to John Jay in 2018, she soon became involved with the college's Immigrant Student Success Center, the first of its kind in CUNY. Working with Dr. Cynthia Carvajal, the university's director of immigrant student success, and others, Ramirez Carbajal learned how to expand initiatives from the ground up. The center started with a small office, with its limited space making it uncomfortable for students to share confidential information. Eventually, with collective efforts, it expanded and offered new programs like Undocu-Ally training, which Ramirez Carbajal helped develop to train faculty on how to assist immigrant students. She also picked up how to request and write reference letters, which has proven handy during her ongoing run at BC.

"I really enjoyed my time at John Jay – being able to create programming, to interact with students, help them advocate for

themselves," she said.

Although she initially thought of heading to law school and studying corporate law after John Jay, she realized the lifestyle did not suit her. Instead, she went on to work full-time in her local district office as a community affairs liaison. Alongside seasoned members in the Senate, she learned how to advocate for herself, and engaged in several communal initiatives, including informing her Mexican community of their rights and the office's existence.

However, working through the height of COVID-19 and long hours made her realize it was time to take a breather in February 2022. During her break, she took months caring for herself and later looked after her grandmother in Mexico for a month.

Once she had a chance to reconnect with friends and do what made her happy, she went on to apply to several jobs, including BC ISSO's program coordinator position. She officially started her work at Brooklyn College this past Jan. 17.

With nearly two months on campus, she's quickly grown bonds with students who visit ISSO in Roosevelt Hall 117. Whether it be listening to their troubles, or creating events and programming to better engage the BC community, Ramirez Carbajal remains committed in supporting those who come to her and ISSO for help.

"We accept anybody who wants to be an ally or identifies as an immigrant, and we don't ask students to disclose their status. If they decide to disclose their status to us, it's up to them. Everybody is welcome," she said.

Starting From Scraps: BC's Incoming Composting Pilot Program

By Gabriela Flores
Editor-in-Chief

About 3.4 million tons of residential waste are produced in New York City each year. Approximately one-third of what is dumped consists of food waste and other compostable materials. These scraps are like gold to composting drop-off sites across the city that intend to divert organic scraps from landfills. At Brooklyn College, student leaders, campus sustainability administrators, and members of GrowNYC, an organization that works on the ground to organize composting efforts, are bringing composting to students on campus.

"This could also be the prime time to show people there is a better, alternative way to deal with food waste," said Nathalie Huang, the president of Brooklyn College Sustainability Club and a GrowNYC compost coordinator. "Less food going into the trash means less waste that needs to be set outside on the curb for trash collection, and less potential food for rats and local wildlife to scour through."

Composting is the process of recycling organic matter, such as uncooked fruit and vegetable pieces, that can decompose into a rich fertilizer for community gardens, street trees, houseplants, and other plant life.

Huang, who has worked with GrowNYC since 2021, has seen the ins and outs of food scrap drop-off sites, educating locals about how to compost properly and its overall necessity. Working every Friday at a site on Flatbush Junction, she's become one of the over 60 compost coordinators with GrowNYC who have contributed to curbing less useful waste from hitting

landfills. On campus, Huang is also a helping hand in the college's budding composting program, an initiative that was first brought to her attention by Campus Sustainability and other Brooklyn College students.

Currently, there is no official site on campus where students can compost their organic scraps except for a bin that was recently installed in the Brooklyn College Eats Garden that sits by the Center for Performing Arts. However, only yard wastes or plant trimmings are allowed to be composted there. As organizers like Huang gear up to soft launch the composting program, they set their eyes on Boylan Hall's cafeteria. Days and designated times have yet to be decided for when students can drop off their scraps. On the college level, locally reducing the trashing of food waste could help BC's surrounding environment to reap the benefits, according to Huang.

"We'll be saving waste and using it for a better purpose rather than allowing it to be sent to a landfill and polluting the environment with methane gas. Small changes make a big impact, and together, we can accomplish a lot," she said.

As an urban sustainability major, Huang's composting duties and habits that consider the environment's well-being stem from her interest in the interrelatedness of social, environmental, and economic issues. Learning how these three components impact people is another pillar that interests Huang.

"There are so many existing problems in the world affecting all of us right now that is not good if we keep going down



(L to R) BC Sustainability Club members Mark Hachicho and Nathalie Huang. / Gabriela Flores

the same trajectory in the long term, and that's what people mean when they say something is 'not sustainable,'" she said.

“We'll be saving waste and using it for a better purpose...”

When it comes to composting, Huang is well aware that the practice should be something that a person is comfortable doing. Since scraps are involved, with their subsequent odors and leaks, those starting to compost can use containers with lids to store their composting goods before dropping them off at a local site. The best option to avoid any messy mishaps is to place the containers in freezers. According to Huang, it's important to remember that several public drop-off locations do not accept meat, fish, dairy, or bones.

As much as composting is important in deterring landfill wastes, she knows

that not everyone would be open to the idea.

"Composting is great, but of course, part of the job is also knowing I cannot convince everyone to compost their food scraps," said Huang, noting for several years, trash has typically been bagged and put on the curb for sanitation to pick up. "For many people, the very idea of separating their food waste from their regular trash and bringing it to a food scrap drop-off for composting is too much work for them, and yet, other people do care enough to do it."

Like any initiative that comes from the ground up, those behind BC's incoming composting program will gradually and steadily gain traction. In the meantime, Huang, alongside other members of her club and major, have promoted sustainability in other ways.

Last semester, in a leaf-raking event hosted by Campus Sustainability Coordinator Stalin Espinal and Carrie Sadovnik, the director of Environmental Health and Safety, Huang and other BC students raked 40 bags worth of

leaves. On her end as BC Sustainability Club's president, she's been tabling with her colleague Mark Hachicho for student outreach, asking BC students about their thoughts on a food scrap drop-off on campus.

"I think the more nerve-racking – and exciting – part of really getting the ball moving with this project is the first day when the food scrap drop-off is open. However, it'll be interesting to record the numbers of participants and how many small bins of food scraps were collected each week," said Huang, noting that other neighboring drop-off sites like hers in Bensonhurst usually start slow before picking up full steam from regular composters.

"I believe this shows consistency, and visibility with a drop-off site is what will help the pilot program to succeed over time, too," she said.

BC students and faculty interested in sharing their input about the composting program can fill out a survey at:

bit.ly.BCComposting.

Comedian Bassem Youssef Brings His Satirical Jokes To BC



World-renowned comedian Bassem Youssef at BC's Comedy Night./ @bcstudentgov via Instagram

By Haritha Lakshmanan
Staff Writer

Stressed out students versus laughter: thankfully, laughter won over the 500 students who attended Comedy Night. World renowned comedian Bassem Youssef came to town on Feb. 21 to give Brooklyn College a show to remember at Whitman Hall. The night was filled with satirical jokes, free USG merchandise, a speech from President Michelle Anderson, and a post-show dinner for student leaders.

"I was invited, so I came," Youssef told The Vanguard.

Youssef, a cardiac surgeon turned comedian, was the host of the popular television show "El Bernameg," the first political satire show in the

Middle East. The program made tremendous waves, with Youssef poking fun at the politicians in his native Egypt. Eventually, it became too dangerous for him to stay in the country, which led him and his family to journey to the United States. Dubbed as the "Jon Stewart of the Arab World," Youssef continues making strides as he travels the world doing stand-up.

"There was a certain atmosphere of excitement all throughout the night. Bassem kept everyone on the edge of their seats with sharp, witty jokes and thoughtful satire. The feeling was surreal," said Robert Adler, a BC senior and Undergraduate Student Government's student advocate.

The evening was moderated

by Adler and student leader Mariam Alex, who form part of the teams that made Youssef's visit possible, including USG, American Medical Student Association, B.A.-M.D. Student Committee, and Brooklyn College Speech and Debate Team.

Prior to Youssef taking the stage, Adler and Alex introduced him in peak entertainment fashion, using knock-knock jokes and even a song to explain the house rules for the night. Once the stage belonged to Youssef, he did not disappoint. His comedy gold centered on his Arab identity while he compared his life experiences in Egypt and the United States. From taking a jab at Los Angeles' traffic, to his fun retelling of the day he received his US citizenship,

Youssef brought out the laughs from BC students. After his show, he interacted with the audience members in a Q&A.

"A real highlight of this event was the opportunity to directly interact with Bassem and ask him questions on everything from his life and his journey from medicine to comedy to his skincare routine and tips on vegan eating," said Alex, USG's events director. "Bassem was extremely gracious in giving us the chance to directly interact with him, allowing us to gain valuable insight from an inspiring comedian!"

The event, which took months to plan, resulted in a night of success thanks to many students and faculty on campus. "We couldn't have done it without the really amazing staff at CUNY, all our student volunteers with the USG events team, and all the students that attended and brought along their strong enthusiasm," Alex said.

The event saw close to 500

students, faculty, and staff in total attendance. For Phoebe Marbid, sophomore and treasurer of the BC Newman Catholic Center, Youssef's use of comedy in the context of religion was something she found hilarious. She referenced Youssef's joke about Moses parting the Red Sea to avoid traffic and reach the Promised Land as one of the highlights of the night.

"As a religious studies double major myself, I found his religious jokes to shed light on how we could make jokes in religious contexts and be mature about it," she said.

Looking forward to more events, USG hopes that students on campus will be able to attend Rage Against Midterms on Mar. 14, where students can relieve their stress surrounding midterms by breaking plates and other materials, as well as an Iftar dinner hosted on Mar. 27 by the Muslim clubs on campus.



Students lined up for snacks after the show./ @bcstudentgov via Instagram

Big Apple City

by Nitu Farhin



BC Newman Catholic Center Rings In Lent With Mardi Gras Party

By Haritha Lakshmanan
Staff Writer

The Brooklyn College Newman Catholic Center hosted its annual Mardi Gras party in celebration of Lent, a month of Christian religious observance, on Feb. 17. Featuring delicious food and fun-filled games, the event saw students of all backgrounds.

Newman has been actively uplifting the college's Christian community since 1963, looking to strengthen the bond believers have with their faith. Its latest Mardi Gras celebration was the first one back in-person following the COVID-19 pandemic. Although the center had remote celebrations in the past years, they enjoyed the energy and community that its in-person return brought to campus.

"Mardi Gras is the day before Lent – a season of fasting and prayer for many members of the Christian community. As such, many of us celebrate the night before with unhealthy food," explained Michael Martinez, a BC graduate student and Newman's spiritual director.

The party featured card games and other Mardi Gras-themed activities. A specific game involved students removing beads off their Mardi Gras necklaces every time they mentioned a "forbidden



Newman Center's members at their traditional Mardi Gras celebration./BC Newman Center

word." This game was a variant of a baby shower activity but modified for the Mardi Gras party.

Forbidden words included Mardi Gras, Fat Tuesday, baby, and king cake. "Fat Tuesday" refers to the day before Ash Wednesday, or the start of Lent, where celebrants eat "as much butter, sugar, or meat as possible," according to Phoebe Marbid, treasurer of the Newman Center. The term "king cake" references the decadent, sugar-layered treat that is associated with the three kings who visited Jesus Christ after his birth. "Baby" is a nod to baby Jesus, who is celebrated during the Mardi Gras festivities.

Aligning with the meaning of the holiday in the

Christian denominations, there were also unhealthy food options at the party, such as fried chicken, donuts, and cakes. Other than the games, there were also dances.

"Getting to learn a glimpse of the dances was my favorite part of the party! I don't come from a nation where the carnival festival is heavily prominent, so I loved every moment of learning the dances from some of our members," said Marbid.

BC Newman leaders stated that they were worried about the event turnout as it was held on a Friday evening. The initially planned date fell on a Tuesday that ran on a Monday schedule for classes, pushing the event back a few days. Despite

the worry, there was a good turnout, with guests from Queens College in attendance as well.

The event asked that all students who attended wear fancy masks in traditional Mardi Gras style. Masks were available for selection provided by the Newman Center.

"I loved wearing and seeing everyone else wear the masks! Wherever I turned around, there were students wearing masks, and I liked that I couldn't identify everyone around me. It allowed me to interact with anyone and everyone I saw without worrying or overthinking," Alexander Ocasio, president of the Newman Center, told The Vanguard.

The BC Newman Catholic Center hopes to have a St. Patrick's celebration in the near future, as well as a Holy Week service during spring break in early April to celebrate Easter. Every Tuesday, the center hosts mass at 12:30 PM followed by Tea with Litanies, a series of events where Newman members and attendees enjoy an assortment of drinks while listening to prayers. They encourage anyone interested in understanding more about scriptures to come to their weekly mass or schedule a meeting with their spiritual counselor. The Newman Center is located at 2401 Glenwood Road, and is open to all BC students whether they are of Christian faith or not.

Calling all budding reporters and writers!

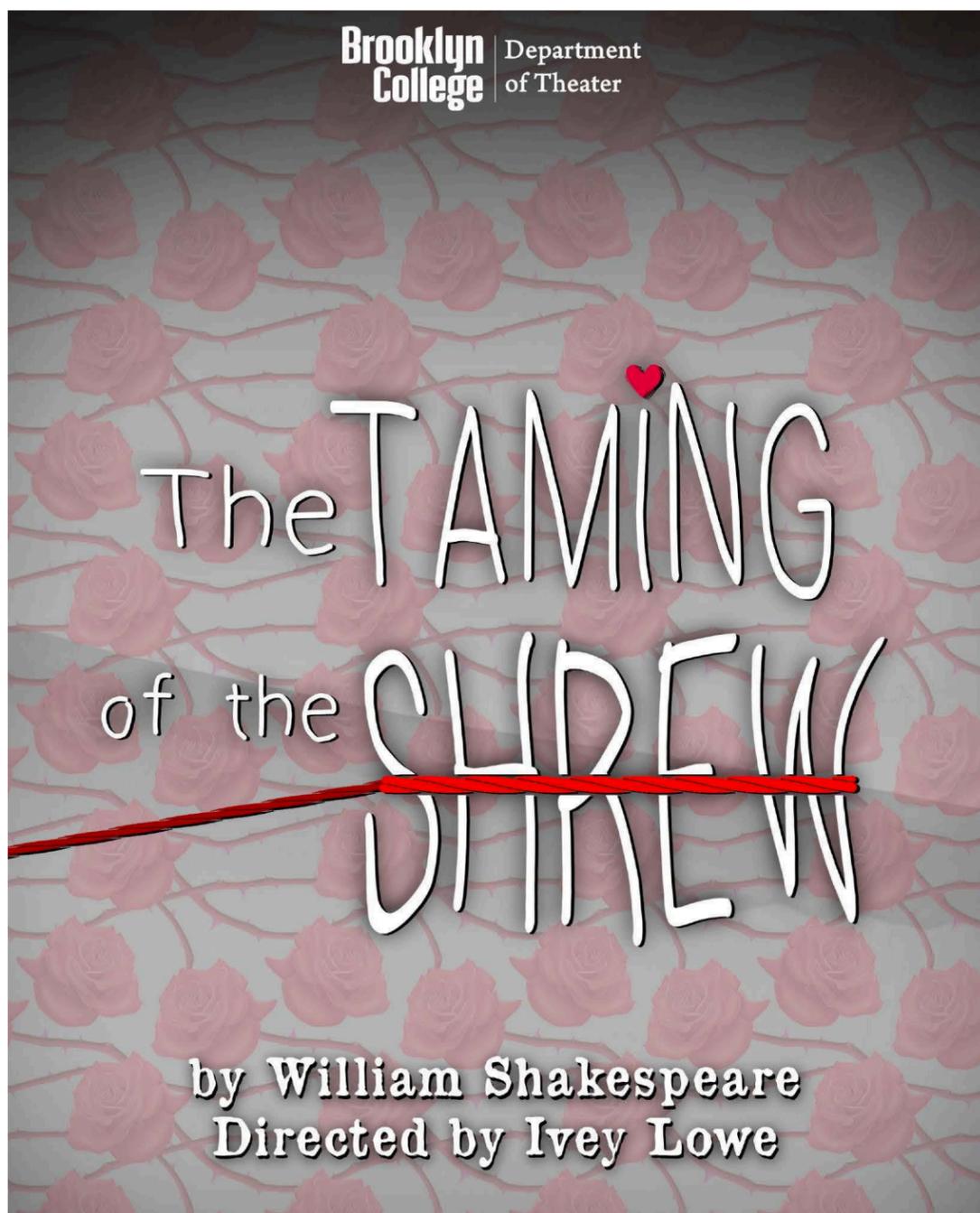
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Review: Actors Save 'The Taming Of The Shrew' From Falling Flat



Artwork and graphic design by Cody Hom./BC Theater Department.

By Samia Afsar
Arts Editor

The BC Theater Department began its spring semester performances with an adaptation of “The Taming of the Shrew,” a play written by William Shakespeare and directed by Ivey Lowe. Its curtains opened on Friday, Mar. 3, in the New Workshop Theater.

For those unfamiliar with “The Taming of the Shrew,” the 1593 comedy revolves around a local lord tricking an intoxicated tinker named Christopher Sly into believing that he too is a lord. The devious lord then makes his men carry Sly to his manor, where he

is dressed in his finery and treated as a real nobleman. Once recovered, Sly refuses to believe the men’s narrative but once hearing of his beautiful wife - a pageboy dressed in women’s clothing - he gladly accepts himself as the lord they claim him to be and wishes to be left alone with his “bride.” But Sly’s servants inform him that a troupe of actors has arrived to present him with a play. The performance he watches makes up the story of “The Taming of the Shrew.”

In the Italian city of Padua, a mad romantic named Lucentio is in love with soft-spoken Bianca but cannot marry her until her sharp-tongued older sister, Katherine,

marries first. The eccentric Petruchio eventually weds Katherine but uses a number of tactics, such as depriving her of food and rest, in an attempt to tame the ‘shrew.’

The BC Theater Department’s adaptation, however, begins at a 21st birthday party set in 2023 where a lord (Emma Gibson) similarly persuades a cast of characters to fool the drunken Christopher Sly (Matthew Zimmerman) that he is a lord himself with countless servants and a fair, obedient wife. The titular play is then staged for Sly, which in this production is set in 18th-century Italy.

In her director’s note, Ivey Lowe emphasized

that she intended to show “the dangers of a culture and community that punish women for having the audacity to be themselves, and continually give access and benefits to those who perform gender ‘correctly’ still play out every day. Whether at a 21st birthday party or in 18th-century Italy, the loop continues to repeat and reflect itself,” she wrote.

Despite rightfully aiming to illustrate the misogyny that has continually impacted women, the 21st-century modification in the department’s adaptation was simply unnecessary. Especially when considering that the majority of the play was still set in the 18th century, its inclusion proved to be redundant and dare I say - questioned the intellectual capacity of the patrons to independently infer familiarities connecting the past and the present.

“The beauty in BC’s production of the “Taming of the Shrew” lies in its performance.

Its failure also lies in its structure. In this production, the characters from the birthday party cast themselves as the characters from “The Taming of the Shrew,” making its narrative needlessly convoluted. This is to no blame on the cast or crew, who evidently have put

in tremendous efforts to ensure an enjoyable theater experience for their patrons.

With the black box theater transformed into a pink checkered conversation pit, complete with a matching pink chandelier hanging from above, the set design managed by Jeffrey Forde pleasantly reflected the coruscating aesthetics of Sofia Coppola’s “Marie Antoinette” (2006).

Each of the actor’s ardent performances remained enthused for the duration of the two-hour-long show with such intimacy that the night transformed into a tribute to performance art. Actors often openly engaged with the audience members, whether to convey emotion through slight nods and whispers or by simply drunkenly sitting next to them and striking up quick banter.

In particular, there was an exceptionally brilliant performance by Susan Myburgh and Briar Robin Pollock, who both recruited such elegance and poise even in the utter ridiculousness of their characters.

The beauty in BC’s production of the “Taming of the Shrew” lies in its performance. Perhaps its narrative would’ve been more cohesive if it tied the 21st-century narrative throughout its entirety, or perhaps if one actor played one character at a time. Either way, the student performers never disappoint and with the upcoming production of “The Shortworks Festival” directed by Francisco Solorzano set to debut later this month, I am eagerly awaiting another powerful presentation.

“The Shortworks Festival” will open on Mar. 31 in the Don Buchwald theater.

Conservatory Hosts Enchanting Faculty Recital In Rachmaninoff's Memory



The Long Piano Duo performing together last Thursday./Allison Dubrow

By Allison Dubrow
Staff Writer

Rachmaninoff's spirit came back to life last Thursday, Mar. 2. In a concert hosted in the Don Buchwald Theater, the music performed by faculty in Brooklyn College's Conservatory of Music brought the audience to a different place, illustrating how the legendary composer's memory will never die.

The faculty recital included sisters Beatrice and Christina Long on the piano, and special guest Marianne Gythfeldt playing the clarinet, who celebrated composer Sergei Rachmaninoff's 150th birthday through their performances. Rachmaninoff was a Russian pianist, composer, and conductor. Most of the work he produced features the piano as

he wanted to use his skills to demonstrate the instrument's eloquence.

The Long Duo walked onto the stage in black and silver sparkly gowns. Both performers took seats at baby grand pianos placed side by side with the performers facing each other. Throughout their performance, they remained in tune with what they were playing, all while acknowledging each other's presence.

Their first performance was "Larghetto and Allegro in E-flat major," by Mozart. Together they performed such a complex piece, all with a resembling ease of someone typing on a keyboard, calm and knowing where every key is, allowing each sound to echo through the chamber. While watching them perform, they allow one to imagine they are in the room where films

get scored and the magic happens.

"I thought the music was just enchanting, I guess. That's the word I've been telling them. Enchanting, spellbinding, you know it's a very technical piece, lots of flurry of notes, but you don't think of the technical side of it, they always bring out this musicality," said BC senior Jay Symon Abrera, who is a student of Professor Beatrice Long.

To the audience, it was evident how the performers are passionate about their instrument and art, and how their knowledge would pass on to their students. The remaining pieces that were played, including "Floods of Spring 11. from 12 Romances, op. 14," by Rachmaninoff, were so intense at some points. One could imagine a whole orchestra performing

alongside both sisters, and yet it was only the two of them.

Later in the night, Marianne Gythfeldt played the clarinet in accompaniment of Beatrice Long, who continued playing the piano. Their instruments in "Oh, never sing to me again 4. from 6 Romances, op. 4" by Rachmaninoff, complemented one another very nicely, melding a sorrowful but hopeful sound.

"I was taken into their world, for that 60 minutes of performance [...] I was in another world and it was amazing" said Abrera.

As the recital went on, Beatrice and Christina Long continued to impress the audience. Their hands graciously bounced along nearly all keys of the pianos, creating an accompaniment unlike

no other. At one point it sounded like there was a bee buzzing due to the speed at which they were playing.

The concert's music seemed to portray a story of sadness and hope, demonstrating that there is more to be found and more fun to be had in life. "I thought it was a great performance," said BC student Maxwell Hinton.

Audience members looked on in amazement, watching all of the performers' talent and the beautiful sounds of the compositions they played.

The Conservatory of Music's next concert is on Wednesday, Mar. 8 at 5 PM in the Don Buchwald Theater, where students will present solo and chamber works for strings.

Opinion: TV Shows Should Cut To the Chase



Courtesy of Shea Stevenson

By Shea Stevenson
Opinions Editor

The (very good) HBO series “Succession” announced recently that the upcoming fourth season is going to be its final season. This is fantastic news, and I sincerely wish the showrunners had been forced to wrap it up with the time they had in season 3, but this will do. This might seem like a weird thing for a fan to think, but I want what’s best for my shows, and what’s best for my shows is to get to the point.

A part of the reason I’ve been so antsy for “Succession” to end is that, unlike a lot of other stuff on TV or otherwise, it’s rather well-written. As a consequence of that good writing, I know that if these writers had a point they were building towards, they could have gotten there

by now. We’re talking about approximately 29 hour-long episodes, or something like 29 hours of show. The sorts of complex, interesting movies that these writers draw their inspiration from are each around three hours tops. There’s simply no way that these first three seasons of “Succession” have such nuanced points to make that it needs enough space to fit the runtime of “The Godfather” ten times over. Usually stuff is written poorly enough that I know they couldn’t have made a good coherent point regardless, but with “Succession,” it’s just good enough that I’m certain they could do it with more respect for my time.

Which, of course, is not the paramount consideration in making movies or TV. For a lot of people, the appeal is the time sink; they prefer

to get lost in a show and never be worried about it ending. There’s nothing wrong with that, but I have the mic right now, and I think there’s never been a show that needed more than 20 hours to get its point across. Even that seems high. But it also misses the point of (perhaps) most TV writing; there is no point! Obviously! We ride this television-producing money horse until it croaks. Each episode is an advertisement for the next, each season is a plea for loud enough demands that the studio will bankroll another, and so on. But if that goes on long enough (which isn’t very long) it becomes, considered next to things that do have endings in mind, incredibly poor bang-for-buck if you want to think about it for more than ten minutes.

Jon Favreau, base-

hitter Marvel and Star Wars director (current showrunner of “The Mandalorian”), recently said that this sort of on-and-on storytelling is what he’s going for. “It’s not like there’s a finale that we’re building to that I have in mind. Quite the contrary, I love for these stories to go on and on,” Favreau told Total Film.

And Jon, fair enough, I have to respect the philosophical clarity of purpose, but come on. For me, a spell is broken when an author admits they’re flying by the seat of their pants.

It’s concerning that a lot of properties would, in concept and creativity, be great two hour movies but are stretched thin across a television format. If the Wachowski sisters pitched “The Matrix” today, it wouldn’t end up being a tight, action-packed, two-hour movie. It would be a ten-hour-long first season, full of

diversions and incredibly detailed but unnecessary lore. It would be bloated and worse for it, becoming a series that someone figured is more profitable. Shows like “Severance,” “Our Flag Means Death,” and “Barry” would be great stand alone movies, but are in the wrong medium because companies would rather keep your eyes on their website as long as possible than give you something worth remembering.

At the end of the day, we will each have to make peace with how we’ve spent our time on Earth, and I gotta say, I’d rather watch 10 movies that know their points than a show that doesn’t even know where it’s going or what it’s saying.

Opinion: Wait, Did I Miss Black History Month?

By Jada Simon
Staff Writer

On the last day of Black History Month, 24-year old R&B singer Anayka asked an important question in one of her Tiktoks. She posed directly to her viewers, “Look, I’m gonna be the one to say it, and don’t get mad, don’t get mad, I got to say it. This Black History Month was a little quiet. Am I wrong? Am I wrong? It was a little mute. What’s going on?”

You may ask yourself, why did the young recording artist make this statement? But reader, just think about it. How much celebration did we see this past February?

We can start by thinking about what events took place at Brooklyn College this Black History Month. Although BC hosted several events, a handful of them weren’t directly connected to just Black people, so in the end, that’s maybe why it felt like nothing happened.

Some of the events that took place included “Karaoke Night,” “5th Annual Student Showcase,” “Meet the Greeks,” and “Blue Paint and Sip,” which weren’t necessarily related to one of the most important parts of February – showcasing Black people.

Besides that, companies around the world have also seemingly stopped using Black History



Jada Simon delves into how Black History Month was observed./BlackHistoryMonth.org.uk

Month as an excuse to market the holiday and target consumers. You know how a holiday rolls around and television usually reflects that, whether it’s by showcasing Black appreciation episodes or giving deals on products because it’s Black History Month? Well, that presence didn’t seem to be around this year.

For example, Amber Ruffin, one of the only Black late-night talk show hosts, celebrated Black History Month by giving an explanation to what she thinks is a controversial topic for the way everyone should learn history, especially in schools. Ruffin suggests that we need a “white history month” and here’s why.

Apparently, Ruffin thinks that “history shouldn’t just be names and dates, it’s supposed to give us context for

the present.” She says that there is no way for people to understand the inequalities of this country’s past without truly understanding the real history behind this country’s laws.

Now that’s how Black History Month is covered on Ruffin’s end, but as for how some companies show their appreciation on television during Black History Month, it usually goes something like this: celebrating Black people that have achieved so much such as Black artists, Black sports players, Black TV show hosts, and overall amazing Black creators of all kinds in a way that fits their brand.

If we think back to one of Google’s former Black History Month commercials three years ago, on initial examination there are different categories showcasing Black

people that made history in America. There was Beyonce’s Coachella performance being put into the category of most searched performance, John Legend for the category of most searched EGOT winner, and Maya Angelou for most searched female poet, among so many others.

Some TV shows and companies use Black History Month as a way to further the conversation about Black acceptance. By doing this, they are attempting to bring truth to history and change the false truths we are taught in school, but somehow that was just not as present this year.

We had a couple of events this February that were mostly indirect to Black history, like the Super Bowl for example. But now that I think about it, the problems

leading up to this past month likely muted the celebration.

There were so many heartbreaking events that occurred, impacting all of us in one way or another. Like the police shooting that resulted in the death of Tyre Nichols, the deaths caused by the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria, and just so many other violent events that occurred and still continue to occur now.

So what does that mean for the future of Black History Month? I’m not entirely sure, but hopefully we can finally see that everyday should be for everyone and we need to do more to make the world equal for people of all colors. This way, in any crisis that occurs, everyone will know that they hold some importance to the world.

Opinion: The Syllabus Is Your Friend, Read It



Syllabi and their content deserve more attention, Michela Arlia opines./Getty Images

By Michela Arlia
Managing Editor

Four years in college teaches you many things. It teaches you to be resilient, manage time, and think critically, among other skill sets. But the most important skill college teaches you is to read the syllabus.

You may be thinking, Michela, what are you talking about? The syllabus is just a formality, no one really reads that. Well, my friends, you are wrong.

We know them, we love them, or we probably loathe them, but syllabi are your trusty companions throughout the 16-week race to final exams.

If you are just a glancer to the syllabus on day one, you probably look for three key things: grading, assignments, and attendance. Bonus points if you looked

for the key words “midterm,” “final,” and “paper.” But the syllabus is so much more than this. It can be a useful resource list, or a great point of contact for your professor, or just simply a calendar. At its core, it is the blueprint for a carefully thought-out learning experience.

We are now six weeks into the semester, and it truly baffles me how questions on the simplest of things are still asked in class group chats. This happens every semester like clockwork. Messages of someone frantically asking if there is a quiz the night before class, or whether a paper needs to be in MLA or APA format sit in my unread messages.

The amount of times I want to just respond “it’s in the syllabus” is now plain frightening. It is the place of all places to get information, why

aren’t people looking?

While I completely understand instances of general confusion and that it happens to the best of us, this is on a whole other level. Many professors take the time before a semester starts to include detailed instructions for their course, leaving little to no room for clarifying questions. I mean it’s all spelled out, how hard can it be?

Apparently, very.

I may be guilty of taking things too far with my syllabi each semester, checking off classes on the course calendar as we go, and writing down due dates for the big end-term assignments ahead of time. But I really do think it’s more useful than not reading it at all. So here’s my suggestion to all professors on how to fix this issue.

The first, syllabus quizzes. A very simple

yet effective tactic is to give students in the first week of classes a quiz on the syllabus. I’m no villain here, it would be open book of course. Though it will be quite comical to watch us students struggle for 15 minutes to remember if the midterm is worth 20 or 25 percent of our grade.

Point is, quizzes would just ensure that students have at least looked at the very document that outlines the semester’s plans. As I’m sure you spent your nights perfectly centering text, and planning out what reading assignments are due, you deserve a little boost to know that your work was read.

If you’re a student who actually creases the top left corner of your paper because you flipped to page two on your syllabus, this quiz should be the only guaranteed A the entire

semester.

Option number two, and this one is my favorite - easter eggs.

If all professors could insert something quirky into their syllabus for students to catch, they may be able to get an accurate headcount of who actually read it. Some past examples I’ve seen include “if you’re reading this, send me a picture of a cat.” Arguably one of the best examples, a performing arts professor in Tennessee put in “free to the first who claims; locker one hundred forty-seven; combination fifteen, twenty-five, thirty-five,” where the lucky student who read the syllabus and followed directions would instantly earn \$50. Surprise surprise, everyone failed that test.

Professors, attach some extra credit points to these easter egg hunts and watch how fast people read. Or chances are, they still won’t.

Students have yet to learn that this important resource is not a waste of paper that can be thrown away or forgotten at the bottom of your bags. It is a helpful source, and a contract between you and your professor that only exists to ensure your success in the course that you chose to enroll in.

The syllabus is your best friend - so treat it right.

Coach Erik Smiles, BC Athletics' New Director



Courtesy of BC Athletics

By Owen Russell
Sports Editor

On Feb. 23, Brooklyn College welcomed its new athletics director, Erik Smiles, who comes to Brooklyn with years of experience in athletics and a passion to elevate the university's student athletes.

Smiles joins the Bulldog community after working at Hostos Community College, Long Island University Post, and Farmingdale State in a variety of positions. At Hostos, Smiles revamped the athletic department, in part by instituting a student advisory program. He also oversaw the addition of a women's volleyball program and a men's and women's cross country/track program.

Coming to Brooklyn, Smiles is excited for the future. "There were so many things that drew me to Brooklyn College," Smiles told the Vanguard.

Among the draws, Smiles acknowledged the academic reputation, campus, and even alumni, but he mainly pointed to the college's commitment to its athletes.

"In my first few weeks here I have witnessed first-hand how special our student athletes are and I have been really impressed by our coaches' dedication to their teams," Smiles added.

Smiles' commitment to his athletes comes from years as a student athlete himself. As an undergraduate, Smiles played basketball for the University of Bridgeport

in Connecticut.

"I think being a former student athlete and coach has given me great experience being in the shoes of those I get to work with every day," Smiles explained. "I have been through all the highs and lows of college athletics... This has given me a great perspective of what our student athletes go through on a day-to-day basis and I hope I am on the path of being an expert on helping them through those tough times while allowing them to enjoy the great times."

After being helmed by Bruce Filosa for four decades, the Brooklyn College athletics department is now under the purview of Erik Smiles. He exudes a passion for the athletes, coaches,

and fans that he serves. He's been working for an opportunity like this for quite some time, and has learned through his years of experience as an athlete and coach.

"I love helping people grow, I love competition, and I love building something special..."

"Growing up my biggest role models were always my coaches, after my parents," Smiles said. "So just knowing what my former coaches did for me in terms of helping me through life and giving me a great experience as a student

athlete at both the scholastic and collegiate levels I just knew I wanted to give back and do that for kids like me."

All athletes, current and prospective, should feel secure knowing that Smiles will be looking out for them hopefully for many years to come. He is committed to turning Brooklyn College into a place where students can better themselves through athletics.

"I love helping people grow, I love competition, and I love building something special so what better place is there to do all three than a career in college athletics," he said.

BC Sports Recap (Feb. 22 – Mar. 4)

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL ARE CUNYAC CHAMPS AGAIN



Women's basketball earns third straight CUNYAC Championship win./Tony Correa via BC Athletics

By Owen Russell
Sports Editor

The women's basketball season comes to a close after losing in the first round of the NCAA Division III National Championship. The Bulldogs' season may have ended in defeat, but it does not take away from the fact they won their third straight CUNYAC Championship.

Brooklyn fought against York College to advance in the CUNYAC tournament on Feb. 22. The Bulldogs played the Cardinals in

their last regular season game on Feb. 14, in a contest decided by 15 points. This time around, York gave Brooklyn an even heartier challenge. York raced out to a 7-0 lead, but Brooklyn eventually caught up. The first quarter, marked by defense, ended 14-13 in York's favor. After that, the Bulldogs obliterated York, scoring 24 points in the second quarter. York punched back, scoring 21 in the third. The Bulldogs felt their backs against the wall for the first time in a while but

held strong. By the buzzer, Brooklyn stood victorious and advanced to the CUNYAC Championship against John Jay.

Bulldogs versus Bloodhounds: a centuries-old rivalry (maybe?) played out in the CUNYAC Championship. Coming into the game, Brooklyn had won each of their two previous meetings with John Jay by double-digits. Their third encounter should have been more of the same, right? Well, the Bloodhounds dug their heels in, squaring down for a defensive slobber-

knocker. Brooklyn only managed to score 64 points, less than their season average. Thankfully, the Bulldogs played some staunch defense of their own. Brooklyn locked down John Jay, holding them to just 58 points. Senior guard Gianna Gotti put together a typically masterful performance, scoring 26 points, swiping six steals, dishing six assists, and grabbing eight rebounds. Gotti was named MVP of the championship

Friday, Mar. 3, saw the

Bulldogs take on top-ranked Christopher Newport University in the NCAA Tournament's first round. Brooklyn carried an impressive 15-game win streak into the tourney, while CNU carried a perfect 26-0 record. It was a battle of momentum, which CNU won. The Bulldogs were unable to keep up CNU's scoring outburst, allowing 27 points in the first quarter. Brooklyn played tough, but in the end, suffered a crushing defeat. The final score wound up 89-52.

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL LOSES TWO GAMES

By Owen Russell
Sports Editor

The men's volleyball team continued to skid this past week, losing its two matches. The two losses bring their losing streak to five.

On Feb. 25, the Bulldogs took on Baruch for their second CUNYAC matchup of the season. Brooklyn failed to do much of anything against the Bearcats. The Bulldogs fell in three straight sets (25-17, 25-20, 25-13). Baruch outclassed

Brooklyn, allowing only five aces while scoring 13 of their own. On top of that, Baruch managed 34 kills. Brooklyn managed 13. Brooklyn's top contributor was most likely junior Tommy Min, who scored two aces and earned nine assists.

Brooklyn sought redemption against Lehman College on Feb. 28 but came up empty-handed. Like last time, the Bulldogs lost in three straight sets; however, they put up more of a fight. Brooklyn kept things close in each set (25-18, 25-21,



(Center) BC's Tommy Min./Joseph Gomez for BC Athletics

25-22). Brooklyn continued to allow easy points on the serve as Lehman scored 12

aces. Tommy Min made his presence felt in the box score once again with five

kills, 14 assists, and eight digs.