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THE BROOKLYN COLLEGE VANGUARD

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ELECTION WOES AND WINS



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Cover by Tony Lipka

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The Shift: New York City Turns Towards Red in 2024 Election

By Serena Edwards
Staff Writer

President-elect Donald Trump won against Vice President Kamala Harris by a majority of 312 electoral college votes, as opposed to Harris, who had 226 votes. New York, known to be a “Blue” state during elections, had an influx of more Republican-leaning votes in Brooklyn and the broader New York City area.

According to the “Election Atlas” by the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism, South Brooklyn gained 50% to 70% more Republican-leaning votes in 2024 compared to 2020. This was a big shift compared to 2020 when Biden had 76% of the vote in NYC. According to Spectrum News, Harris had a total of 68% votes in the city.

Former President Trump held a rally before the election in Madison Square Garden to appeal to New Yorkers and get them out to the polls, according to ABC7. Trump had many prominent conservatives join him at the rally, including Fox News host Tucker Carlson, Robert

F. Kennedy Jr., and his vice-president JD Vance. To analysts, this move could have helped sway voters to their side.

“The slew of speakers are unlikely to win over voters on the fence, but their presence on the trail could boost enthusiasm among Trump’s base and among less reliable voting blocs, such as young men,” said political commentator Brett Samuels in The Hill.

Another factor was undecided voters, according to The New Republic. Biden dropped out and handed his candidacy halfway through the race, causing voters to question Harris when she entered; there wasn’t enough time for Democrats to persuade enough people. According to The New Republic, a senior operative at the Harris campaign stated, “He stayed in the race too long, undecided voters viewed the post-Covid status quo and the very real pain of inflation only through the prism of their dislike of Biden.”

Brooklyn wasn’t the only place that saw an increase in Republican

votes: there was an increase in Republican votes in both Queens and the Bronx. Voters voiced that they voted for Trump this election due to the current conditions such as inflation, the border crisis, the economy, and lack of job opportunities, according to The City.

Trump had an outreach of support mainly across predominantly Hispanic communities. A voter told The City he cast his first-ever vote this election, and it was for President-Elect Trump. “The economy is shot. We need more money out here spent in The Bronx. We got a lot of people out here that lost their jobs. You lose your job, you can’t go get a haircut,” he said.

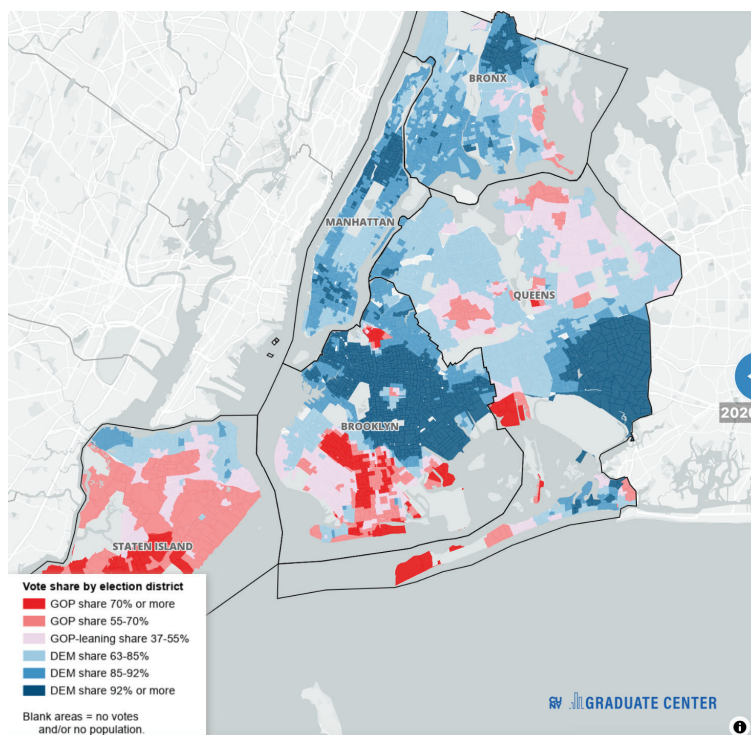
Losing the election due to not securing the Latinx vote was posited by Democrats. Democrat U.S Rep Torres from the Bronx told Politico, “The frustrations of Latino voters, and may I add Asian voters and even perhaps some Black voters, is the Democratic Party’s inability to deliver on bread-and-butter issues.”

20% more points for Trump came from the

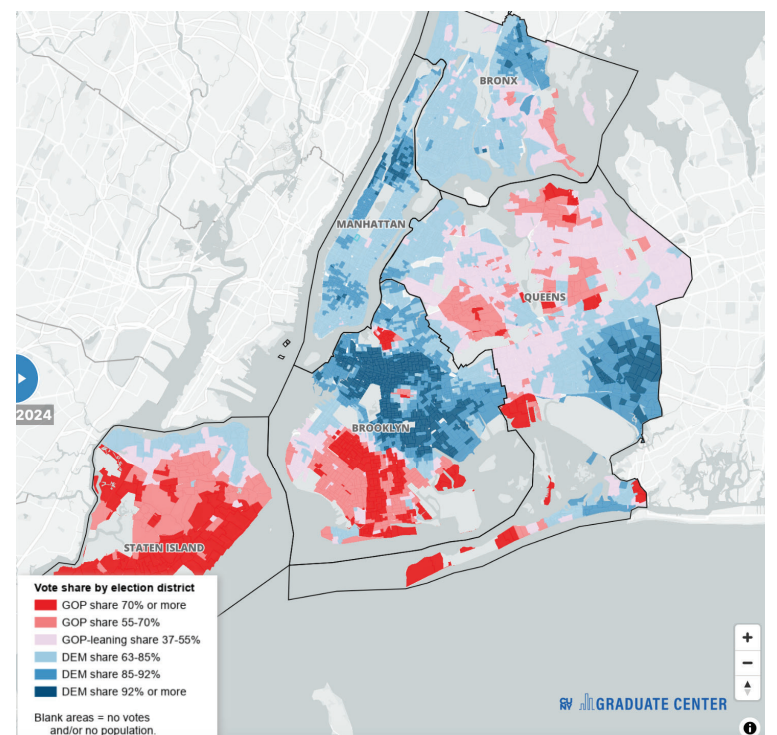
Bronx and Queens compared to four years ago. Voters told The City that in the time of the Biden-Harris administration, “Nothing has been done for them.” A common issue of the cost of living being raised is an ongoing issue, and people have expressed feeling “tired,” according to Gothamist.

Manhattan was the only borough to stay Democratic, according to the Election Atlas. According to Politico, voters say that the Democratic party catered towards the upper class this election rather than the working class. In an interview with Politico, the president of the New York Young Republican Club, Gavin Wax, stated, “The Democrats became the party of the Manhattan liberal elite rather than their working-class base.”

While there was a shift towards Republican this election, New York City and the broader New York state remained Democratic with 55.8% of the votes going towards Harris, according to NY1.



2020 NYC voting pattern./CUNY Graduate School of Journalism



2024 NYC voting pattern./CUNY Graduate School of Journalism

The Historic “Firsts” of the 2024 Election

By **Avi Wizwer**
Staff Writer

With the 2024 election at a close, several candidates have made history following Tuesday night’s election. These many “firsts” in American history brought greater representation to Congress.

Andy Kim (D) became the first Korean American selected for the U.S. Senate, defeating Curtis Bershaw (R). Kim took over the New Jersey seat of former Democrat Sen. Bob Menendez.

Kim, the son of Korean immigrants, was born and raised in New Jersey. This election opened up avenues for Asian American representation in the Senate. “We showed that politics isn’t some exclusive club just for the well-off and the well-connected,” said Kim, according to the New York Times.

Sarah McBride (D) of Delaware has become the first openly transgender person elected to Congress, securing the victory over John Whalen III (R). McBride has served for two terms as Delaware’s state senator.

“That ticket is not an ultimate destination, but it is a reflection of how

far we’ve come, that no matter who you are, what you look like, where you come from, or the gender with which you identify, that you can live your truth and dream big dreams all at the same time,” McBride said, according to NBC News. “It’s not the end, but it’s the beginning.”

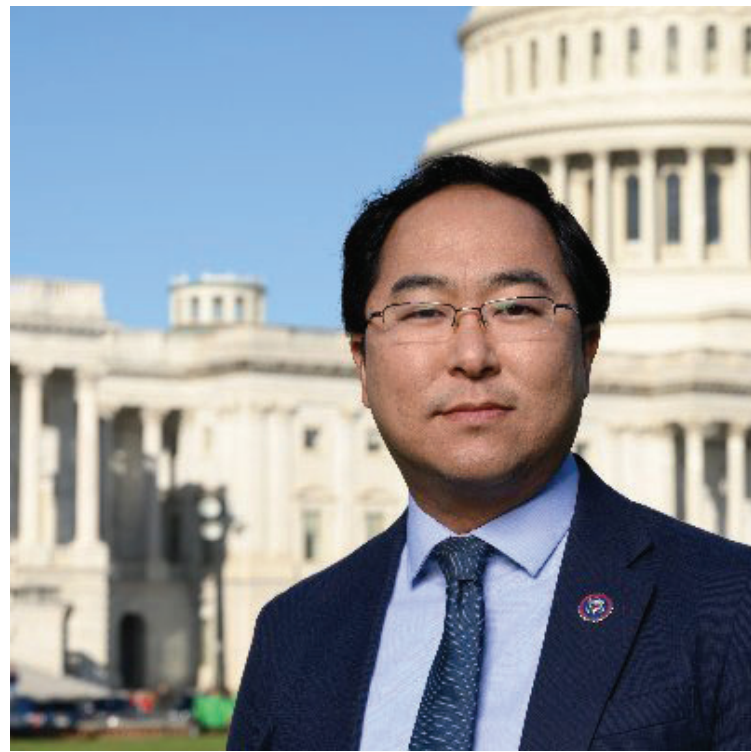
The Equal Rights Amendment, Proposition 1, passed in New York. New Yorkers voted on Proposition 1 to protect abortion rights and access to reproductive health care, including birth control and IVF, from federal action. It will also defend the LGBTQ+ community and other marginalized groups, establishing protection against any form of discrimination. According to Pix11, 62% of New Yorkers voted in favor of the amendment.

“One very bright glimmer of hope in our state was New Yorkers voted overwhelmingly in support of Proposition 1. This amendment firmly establishes that reproductive freedom is worth fighting for and protecting,” stated Gov. Hochul at a press conference on Nov. 6, post-Election Day.

For the first time, two Black women will serve

in the Senate simultaneously: Delaware’s Lisa Blunt Rochester (D) and Maryland’s Angela Alsobrooks (D); the total number of Black women ever elected into the Senate doubled from two to four. According to Today, Rochester became the first woman and Black person to represent Delaware in the Senate, and Alsobrooks became the first Black woman to represent Maryland in the Senate.

“It’s remarkable to think that in two years, America will celebrate its 250th birthday,” Alsobrooks stated in a speech following her victory, according to AP News. “And in all of those years, there have been more than 2,000 people who have served in the United States Senate. Only three have looked like me.”



Andy Kim (D), first Korean American Senator./
[@repandykimnj on X](#)



Sarah McBride (D), first transgender person in U.S. Senate./[LGBTQ+ Victory Fund](#)



Angela Alsobrooks (left) and Lisa Blunt Rochester (right) make history as being the first time two Black women are on the Senate at the same time./[Ms. Magazine](#)

Parks Across Brooklyn See Brushfires Amidst Regional Drought Advisory

By Daniel Afanasyev
News Editor

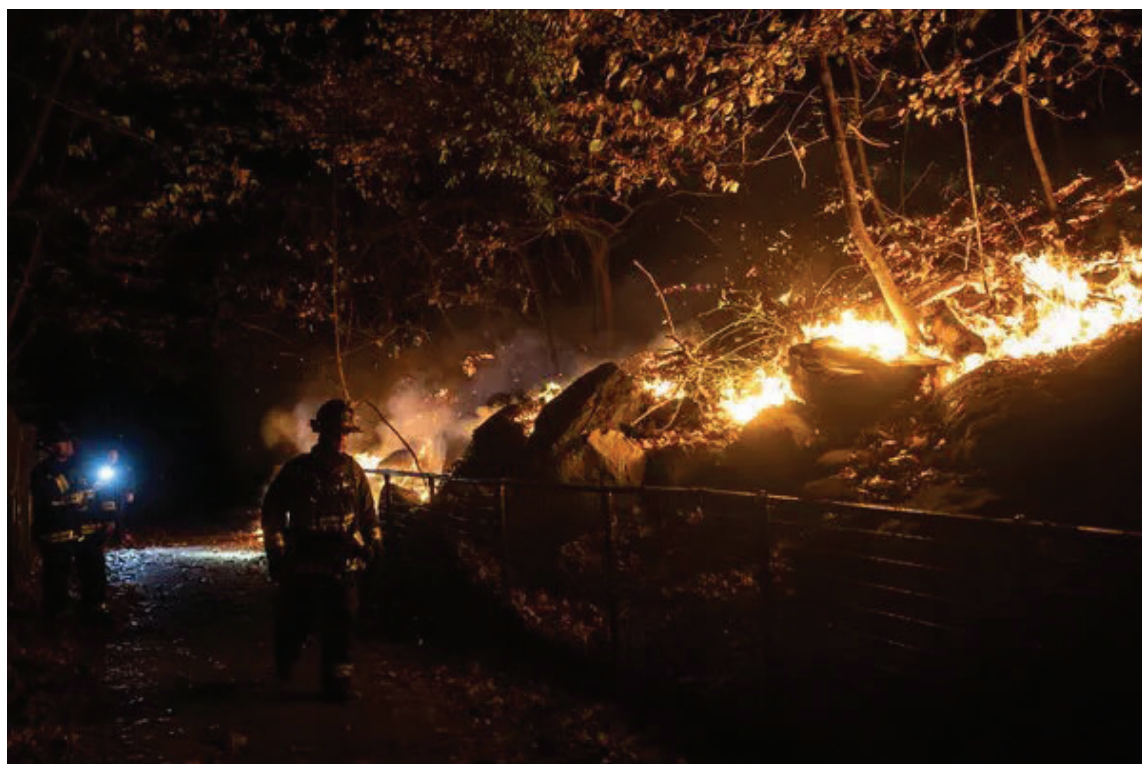
Commander, Fire Department at a press conference.

Several brushfires broke out across Brooklyn over the weekend, the latest effects of an abnormally long stretch of dry weather affecting the Northeastern United States.

“[Prospect Park] is the oldest standing forest in Brooklyn, an incredible asset to the community, to the lungs of the city, so the care and rapid response was so critical here, and we are so pleased and appreciate that FDNY is going to be here through the night to make sure this fire is contained and make sure that our forest is safe,” said Department of Parks and Recreation commissioner Sue Donoghue.

Friday night, a brushfire erupted in Prospect Park near the Nethermead meadow covering approximately two acres before being put out by over 100 members of the FDNY several hours later, according to Chief Joseph Duggan, Brooklyn Borough

Saturday afternoon FDNY responded



FDNY putting out the flames./New York Times



The fire expanded to two acres in Prospect Park./PBS



Mayor Adams, Commissioner Iscol, Commissioner Tucker, and Commissioner Donoghue providing updates on Nov. 8./@nycemergencymgt on X

to two separate brushfires in Marine Park, and extinguished them shortly afterwards, News 12 reported. The cause of both the Prospect and Marine Park brushfires remains under investigation.

Since Nov. 2, the NYC area has been under a drought watch issued by Mayor Eric Adams. With the dry weather, and the increased chance for brushfires expected to continue for sometime, NYC Emergency Management Commissioner Zach Iscol called on New Yorkers to report fires when they see them, and to continue conserving water. In light of the recent blazes, Mayor Eric Adams banned grilling in NYC parks on Saturday.

“As New York City’s historic streak of dry weather creates new

safety risks, today, we are taking additional measures to keep New Yorkers safe,” the mayor said in a press release.

While the fires were an uncommon sight for the borough, the Tri-state area has experienced a significant uptick in wildfires, especially New Jersey, which is currently battling fires covering thousands of acres across the state, according to the New Jersey Forest Fire Service. On Saturday, an 18-year-old NY state parks employee succumbed to his injuries while battling one of the wildfires along the NY-NJ border, NY Daily News reported.

“I am deeply saddened by the passing of one of our New York State Parks employees while responding to a wildfire in Orange County yesterday [...] Our State employees

are working around the clock to protect our communities and we are keeping them close in our thoughts as they put their lives on the line to stop the spread of these wildfires,” NY Governor Kathy Hochul said in a statement Sunday.

To city officials, the brushfires are part of a larger trend of extreme weather continuing to unfold. New Yorkers should be prepared for the changes as well as do their part to prevent more of the fires.

“This is the new normal of extreme weather,” Iscol said at a press conference with Mayor Adams on Friday. “It’s not something that we’re expecting, but it’s something that we all need to be prepared for. So look forward to and appreciate all New Yorkers doing their part.”

Wolfe Institute Hosts ‘Reflections of BAM’

With President Karen Brooks Hopkins

By T’Neil Gooden
Features Editor

The Wolfe Institute at Brooklyn College welcomed former president of the Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) Karen B. Hopkins to speak about her experiences during her time at BAM on Nov. 7.

This event was hosted in conjunction with Brooklyn Lifelong Learning, a program initiative at BC that allows members, regardless of age, to continue to take classes on topics like arts, film, drama, health, history, and literature. BAM, which opened in Brooklyn Heights in 1861, is America’s oldest performing arts center, according to its biography. Decades later, a group of 100 Brooklyn locals raised enough funds to create a new multi-venue academy in 1907. In the 1920s, a third building was created. Originally a Salvation Army building, it was transformed into a theater space that could fit up to 100 people.

Professor Gaston Alonso, the dean of the Wolfe Institute, introduced Hopkins who started out as an adjunct professor at BC and later became president of BAM. Hopkins began by reading an excerpt from her book, “BAM...and Then

It Hit Me,” which explains what BAM was, and has become, after her entrance into the company.

“As I declared on many occasions during my 36-year run to our board, staff, artists, audience, and anyone else who crossed my path at BAM, it was not a job, but a

BAM was able to make its name within the newer cultural hub that was being created within NYC. This included offering an alternative to the more namesake venues for musical performances.

“It was clear right from the beginning that [BAM] would never have enough

Hopkins wanted it to be connected with the borough. Hopkins not only explained the arts highlighted by BAM, but also what understanding the arts can do for a community.

“The arts inspire a love of learning, bring people together, and house our greatest treasures in our most

Brooklyn Heights. Now, Hopkins herself will be a part of its infrastructural history.

“There is this new building called L10 designed by Enrique Norton, that is now finally going to open after 10 years of build [...] there will be a cultural space in the building and the BAM part of it will be known as the ‘BAM KBH’ in my honor,” Hopkins said.

Hopkins ended her presentation with a video showcasing all the past artists, archived plays, and celebrities that she has worked with during her time at BAM, from Louis Armstrong to Princess Diana, and more.

Alonso ended the event by explaining the need for more people like Hopkins, a pioneer for the arts who includes everyone in the community.

“[Hopkins] inspires us all to reimagine the potential for creativity in our lives and our society,” Alonso said. “I think that’s a much-needed message for these times.”

Interested students can read more about Karen Brooks Hopkins’ experiences with BAM by purchasing her book at PowerHouse Books.



Karen B. Hopkins discussed her book “BAM...and Then It Hit Me” about her experience as BAM’s president. / T’Neil Gooden

crusade,” Hopkins said. “It was my mantra. It’s a difficult word, but I adhered to the definition of crusade as quote, ‘an energetic and organized campaign, concerning a social, political, or religious issue.’ For me, BAM was all three.”

As Hopkins read, she reminisced on starting at BAM and spoke about how

money to even be a second-rate Lincoln Center. So we decided to be a first-rate BAM,” Hopkins said. “We doubled down on Brooklyn and helped lead the transformation of the borough from Manhattan wannabe to the coolest neighborhood on the planet.”

As BAM made ground in Brooklyn,

iconic buildings,” Hopkins said. “The arts generate tourism and the discovery of new and different places, different people, and their heritage.”

Hopkins touched upon the infrastructure of BAM and how it has evolved from one building to multiple buildings within the area of

ISSO Celebrates Día De Los Muertos With ‘Frames of Remembrance’

By Jaida Dent
Arts Editor

On Tuesday, Nov. 5, the Immigrant Student Success Office (ISSO) hosted the “Frames of Remembrance” event to celebrate Día De Los Muertos (“Day of the Dead”). Provided with frames and paint, the event allowed students to decorate frames and bring in pictures of loved ones who they have lost to honor them.

“With this event, it was to honor the Day of the Dead. Día de los Muertos, which is a celebration to honor our past loved ones. People were able to bring pictures, either pictures or color, another picture of something that symbolizes a loved one,” said Diana Reyes, the Program and Community Building Fellow for ISSO.

Día De Los Muertos is a two day holiday that occurs at the beginning of November. The holiday serves as an occasion to honor loved ones who have passed. During the holiday, the families will create “ofrendas” (“offerings”)-

altars that have flowers, candles, food, drinks, and pictures of the deceased. The ofrenda is a way to welcome the spirits back to honor and celebrate their lives.

The event allowed students to process their grief for their loved ones while also being able to create frames that can honor them. For Maria De La Cruz, an administrative assistant at ISSO, this event allowed her to honor her aunt and use the creative skills she learned from her to do so.

“I think it was a perfect experience in terms of grieving. I lost her three years ago, and I got all of my art skills from her. Being able to incorporate that and paint her favorite flowers on her frame, made me feel a lot better. I do art because she taught me how to paint and draw,” De La Cruz told The Vanguard.

While grieving can be hard for many, the event promoted a healthy way to confront those feelings and allowed students to open up about their lost loved ones. Conversations were held



The “ofrenda” (“offering”) table with candles, flowers, and painted frames./Jaida Dent

about the people they were creating frames for.

“With any event like this, you expect people to be a little closed off about it. But you see that a lot of people really brought photos. People had conversations regarding who may be the person that they’re celebrating today,” said Sergio Leon Hidalgo, the Research and Data Reporting Fellow for ISSO.

Through the shared feelings of loss, the event was able to foster community between

everyone who came, which is something ISSO strives to do. ISSO’s role is to provide undocumented and first-generation students with services like personal counseling, academic advisement, and legal services, according to its mission statement. In addition to these resources, the office aims to make sure that students have a space on campus they feel safe and supported in.

“A lot of what we see in the numbers is that students always come in for academic advisement. But most importantly, we’ve realized that students really come for lounging and what that looks like is community building,” said Hidalgo.

The Frames of Remembrance event is just one way ISSO aims to build community. The event was much more than just celebrating a holiday: it was a chance to bring together students from a range of backgrounds to pay their respects in an artistic way.

“It was important for us to continue building

and fostering those safe spaces for people to come discuss, meet people, and collaborate,” said Reyes. “I think it also goes to show how diverse our community of students can be and are throughout the semester.”

Outside of their events, ISSO will continue to serve the students of BC by providing support no matter their background.

“I just want to ensure that students know that the Immigrant Student Success Office is here regardless of your immigration status, regardless of what major you’re taking, or what year you are,” said Hidalgo. “We’re here as an office to support students, all of these students.”

For those interested in learning more about ISSO, visit their Instagram @issobc or visit their website <https://www.brooklyn.edu/dosa/student-support-services/isso/>.



Students painting their frames./Jaida Dent

‘We Are Burning’: Short Film ‘N Ap Boule’ Explores Humanitarian Crisis in Haiti

By Kate Dempsey
Editor-in-Chief

Mothers-to-be in the United States are able to deliver their baby either by a drive to a local hospital, in the comfort of their own home, or through other means. For mothers in Haiti amidst the current political and humanitarian crisis, trying to deliver a baby means navigating around uprisings, violent gangs, and crumbling infrastructure, where the violence can even reach into their own homes. In the short film “N Ap Boule” (“We Are Burning”) by Haitian filmmaker Alexandrine Benjamin, she examines maternal health amidst the crisis, and the broader struggle Haitians are experiencing as the country faces revolts.

Violent protests in Haiti began in 2018, when opposition due to fraudulent elections, economic inequality, and corruption in the government grew with many calling for Haiti’s president, Jovenel Moïse, to step down, according to the Council on Foreign Affairs. Protests erupted across the country, many partaking in burning businesses, blocking roads, and clashing with the police in what became known as the *Peyi Lòk*, or “Operation Lockdown” movement, according to the New Yorker.

To Benjamin, one of the main goals of

creating the film was to highlight what everyday people, especially mothers-to-be, are experiencing amidst the crisis as the young couple in the film struggles to get to the hospital once the mother goes into labor.

“It was at first trying to analyze the impact of the *Peyi Lòk* of the movement, the negative impact on people in Haiti, and then we decided to focus it on maternal health because most of the time women are the primary victims, the first victims of those kind of violence,” Benjamin told The Vanguard. “I myself, I witnessed a lot of pregnant women trying to get to hospital to give birth, and it was so difficult for them.”

As news articles out of Haiti continue to mount about the killings and kidnappings of citizens, Benjamin used the film as a means to give life to these otherwise anonymous citizens.

“Most of the time we see like a short article saying, ‘Oh, that person has been killed,’ or ‘A couple has been kidnapped,’ but we never had the chance to follow a single family to understand the struggle of that family. Where do they come from? Those people, they have a life, they have people who love them, they loved life. So I wanted to give back,” Benjamin said.

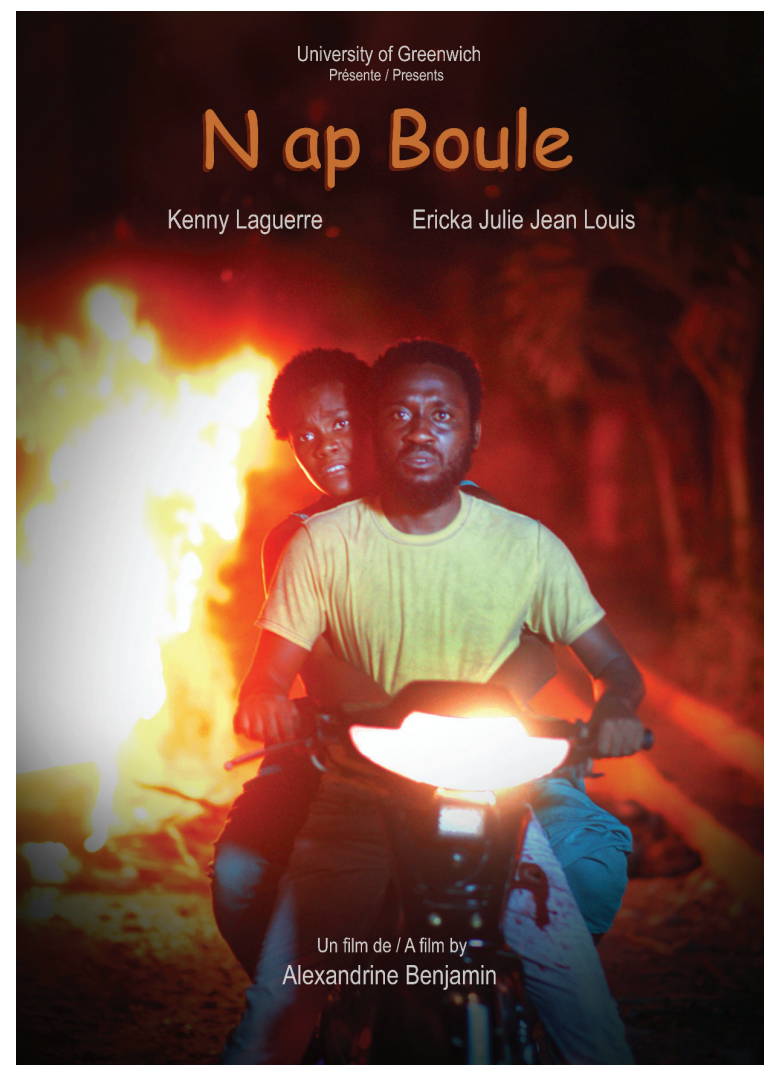
In selecting the role of the mother-to-be, Benjamin chose

an actress who had been through similar circumstances. For Ericka Julie Jean Louis, who plays the mother in the film, the subject matter is personal, experiencing the crisis in Haiti firsthand and utilizing that experience to shape her performance.

“It was really something that [made] me emotional because I [had] my first child at 2016, and I remember [how] the health was in Haiti,” Louis told The Vanguard. “It was hard for me to find a hospital to find the best caring for my situation.”

Since 2021, the violence and political turmoil has spiked further after Moïse was assassinated by his opposition, leaving the country struggling for a stable government, according to the Associated Press. As rival gangs fight for power, conditions in the country have remained perilous with many unable to escape the violence. Shooting the film began in 2021 right as Haiti’s president was assassinated. For Benjamin and the rest of the crew, who filmed on location in the southern town of Jacmel, the assassination made it difficult to complete the film without the threat of violence.

“It wasn’t quite safe for us [...] we planned to shoot the movie for like seven days, and we ended up spending 11 days because we went on location like three times on three different days,”



The short film by Alexandrine Benjamin follows a young couple as they try to make it to the hospital in order for the mother to deliver the baby./Courtesy of Street Team Productions

Benjamin told The Vanguard. “We had to stop because of the murdering of the president.”

The humanitarian crisis since Moïse’s assassination has continued to grow. According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), an estimated 5.5 million Haitians require humanitarian assistance, with women facing a disproportionate amount of the increase in violence. Even with the dire state of the country, Benjamin saw how many in Haiti are unaware of how bad the situation is, with many being trapped in their own homes.

“When I speak to my people in Haiti, they were like, ‘No, it’s okay.

No, it’s not that bad.’ And I was like, ‘Oh my God. They are [in] the situation and they do not realize how bad it is,” she said. “So how do I create something, some kind of mirror for ourselves to look at and understand that people do not live like that. I don’t think it’s a life for people to be stuck [in] their house for like a month, for two months, for three months, because there are people outside having barricades or with guns.”

In naming the film, Benjamin wanted to create a meaningful title that reflected the complicated situation Haitians face while acknowledging that the country is growing exceedingly treacherous for its citizens.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 8]

In addition, the title reflects the universality of being Haitian, and serves as a unifying phrase for the diaspora.

“This title is more like an irony [...] It’s a word we use a lot in Haiti, ‘Boule.’ So we use it to tell people how great we are doing [...] but then also we are burning that because during that period of time, we burn a lot of stuff. We burn hospital[s], we burn school[s], we burn universities, and now we are burning people,” she said. “So

I was like, so what are you guys doing? [...] I wanted something deep, something to resonate with people and also something to resonate with the world. Because anywhere in the world you go and people ask, ‘Where are you from?’ They be like, ‘I’m Haitian. Sak pase,’ and then we respond back.”

For those in the film, living in Haiti has become living amongst the fire. A goal for creating the film was to create a legacy: to show

that Haitians are advocating for a better future.

“The country is burning, even people cannot sleep in their own home[s]. This is what this title means to me. And for me, it was the best way to say, ‘we try to take care of ourself, even [as] everything, our one house, is burning,’” said Louis. “I’m thinking also of my daughter. And for me, it was like a legacy [...] My heart is the way I can speak to people, is the only way I can say or I feel about

what [is] happening [in] this country. So as a mother [it] is like legacy.”

Benjamin and the rest of her team hope that the film continues to have more screenings so that Haitians both at home and abroad, as well as the rest of the international community, take note of the dire situation in the country. Beyond that, Benjamin hopes that the film will bring the Haitian community together through their shared love of their home country and in the

fight for a better future.

“It’s for us Haitian[s] to see our struggle. I want them to see this movie, to understand nowhere else in this world is going to be Haiti. [...] Our people, our diaspora, they are the one I need to see this movie because they’ve seen better, they know better, they can help Haitians based in Haiti to rebuild this nation,” said Benjamin. “We need this, we need this for us because we’re a great nation.”

Black Solidarity Day Committee Hosts ‘Cuba in Africa’ Film Screening

By Yassir Azzam
Podcast Manager

“Cuba en África – Cuba and o África Llamó...Cuba Respondió” (“Cuba in Africa–When Africa Called...Cuba Responded”). These words lit up the screen introducing “Cuba in Africa,” a film by Nagash Abdurahman that examines Cuba’s relationship in helping South Africa end apartheid.

As a part of Black Solidarity Day on Nov. 4, this film screening was one of many events organized in partnership with the Black and Latino Male Initiative (BLMI), the Black Faculty and Staff (BFS), and the Black Solidarity Day Committee. Among the other events were “Call to Student Clubs: Campus Impact Discussion” and an “Election Open Mic Discussion.” In

choosing to screen this film, organizers wanted to connect this activism with the activism that led to Black Solidarity Day.

“We wanted to emphasize the global struggle that also inspired Black Solidarity Day,” Lawrence Johnson, a lead organizer and a professor of sociology at BC, told The Vanguard. “There’s no greater example than the 380,000 people that Cuba sent to southern Africa to help end colonialism and apartheid.”

Abdurahman’s 22-minute film presented archival interview footage of the many leaders who worked to end apartheid. The film captures the story of over 380,000 Cuban teachers, nurses, soldiers, and doctors who united to help South Africa. Although this action was ultimately successful,

it is often overlooked when discussing the broader struggles of that era. As stated in the documentary, the Cubans felt indebted to the enslaved Africans whose blood, sweat, and tears built the cobblestone streets and cities they walk through today. The film illustrated the profound human gift of giving and mutual support, underscoring the significance of solidarity in ending racial struggles.

“This untold story also highlights the African presence in Latin America, Cuba’s support of the Black Freedom Struggle here in the U.S., and the positive relationship between Cuba and Haiti, two countries whose revolutionary past inspires stronger bonds towards freedom,” said Johnson.

Abdurahman explained at the event that it took a decade of dedicated effort and nearly all of his financial

resources to create the film. Although PBS initially supported the project and requested a two-hour documentary, their vision conflicted with the film’s direction. Despite these challenges, the film was able to be made.

Students interested in learning more about Black Solidarity Day can follow the committee on Instagram @blacksolidaritydaycommittee_



“Cuba in Africa” examines the many Cuban supporters of the end to South Africa’s apartheid./Courtesy of Arpa International Film Festival

Dragon Ball: Celebrating The 40th Anniversary of a Franchise That Defined a Generation

By Ezae Darby
Staff Writer

Over the past 40 years, fans everywhere have had the amazing opportunity to experience the world of “Dragon Ball,” which was first created by renowned artist and character designer Akira Toriyama. The franchise follows the main protagonist, Goku, in all of his adventures which span from Dragon Ball, the original show, all the way to “Dragon Ball Z” and “Dragon Ball Super,” in which he continues his journey. The worldwide impact of Dragon Ball and the work of Akira Toriyama has undoubtedly had a huge impact on people and cultures everywhere, and will continue to for generations after.

This past weekend, fans in America got the special opportunity to watch the English premiere of the newest

addition to the series, “Dragon Ball Daima.” This show serves as the last project that creator Akira Toriyama worked on before his death in March of this year.

Dragon Ball Daima continues the adventures of Goku, who is mysteriously shrunk into a child along with his friends. They all decide to venture to the demon realm to uncover this mystery and explore the unknown. This is the fourth installation in the series which comes right after Dragon Ball Super. The show takes inspiration from some elements of “Dragon Ball GT,” a standalone installation within the series.

The Dragon Ball franchise has had a large impact on anime culture worldwide. This is most evident in the action sequences that we see in modern-day anime, and some of the most popular anime shows to date. When

it was first released, Dragon Ball elevated the standard of what action sequences looked like in anime. From the fight choreography to the intensive and immersive displays of martial arts, Toriyama’s creativity set the bar higher for what exciting action sequences should look like in anime shows.

Some of the most popular shows have credited the series as an inspiration. In the show “Naruto,” the idea of having both an adventure theme and tournament arc within the story was directly influenced by the many tournament arcs that have taken place throughout the Dragon Ball series.

The main character also possesses a color scheme that is taken directly from that of Goku when he transforms into his super “Saiyan” form in the series, and one of their signature

moves is most clearly derived from Goku’s most notable attack in Dragon Ball, the “Kamehameha.”

On the matter of pop culture, the influence of Dragon Ball has been massive within the comic book complex. In Marvel Comics, two notable characters of the series make cameos in the series, such as “Fantastic Four Heroes Return,” “X-Men,” and “No More Humans.” Taking inspiration from the show’s artistry, DC Comics has taken direction from Dragon Ball.

Outside of the world of fiction, Dragon Ball has had a huge influence on pop culture in America. The anime has been referenced in numerous popular shows such as “Teen Titans Go,” “Codename: Kids Next Door,” and “The Fairy Godparents.” The show’s influence even reaches rap music, which can be seen in

the sonic works and lyricism of Big Sean, Chance the Rapper, Childish Gambino, Thundercat, Frank Ocean, and Soulja Boy.

Dragon Ball has also been featured throughout several different parades. A float of Goku originally made its debut in the annual Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade in 2018 to celebrate the release of one of the franchise’s newest projects at the time, “Dragon Ball Super: Broly.” This float made history as it was the first-ever anime character to appear in the parade.

It continued to make an appearance for five years, and it has been recently revealed that a new design of the Goku float will be revealed at the upcoming Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade for 2024. This not only celebrates the upcoming Dragon Ball theme park in Saudi Arabia, but it also commemorates the 40th anniversary of the franchise and stands as a tribute to Akira Toriyama.

Fans of Dragon Ball Daima hope it will bring in a whole new wave of supporters that continue to build upon the ideas and stories that Toriyama has gifted us with. Hopefully, the new show will embody the same spirit that inspired a generation of artists, fans, and writers everywhere.



Original Dragon Ball art./Courtesy of Game Rant

Give Us Our Education: Project 2025 Could Devastate the Education System

By Mars Marte
Staff Writer

This past summer, news of Project 2025 overtook social media, including Instagram and TikTok, across hundreds of posts dedicated to rejecting or supporting the project. But what exactly is Project 2025? The “Mandate for Leadership,” as it is otherwise known as, began its journey in April 2023, but remained unknown due to its lack of coverage. Project 2025 represents a dangerous step toward a future where attending higher education institutes will no longer be a right for some.

The plan was drafted by at least 100 conservative agencies and former Trump administrators at Heritage Foundation – a research and education organization with a mission to promote conservative views, according to its website. The foundation is headed by Kevin Roberts, who is a policy researcher who previously served as the Chief Executive Officer at the Texas Public Policy Foundation.

On the surface, the project appears to be a list of policies drafted to serve as a blueprint for the transition to the next Republican president. When plunging into the document, a restrictive nature lurks in its shadows. The proposal complexly covers an innumerable amount of topics, some of

which directly impact students. Hidden within the 900 pages of the framework are multiple propositions to eliminate student loans for higher education.

Without government financial assistance, higher education becomes increasingly inaccessible. Many students rely on federal student aid, determined by the state’s Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA) and Tuition Assistance Program (TAP). These two funding applications are vital for those who seek to further their learning as the price of college continues to hike upward.

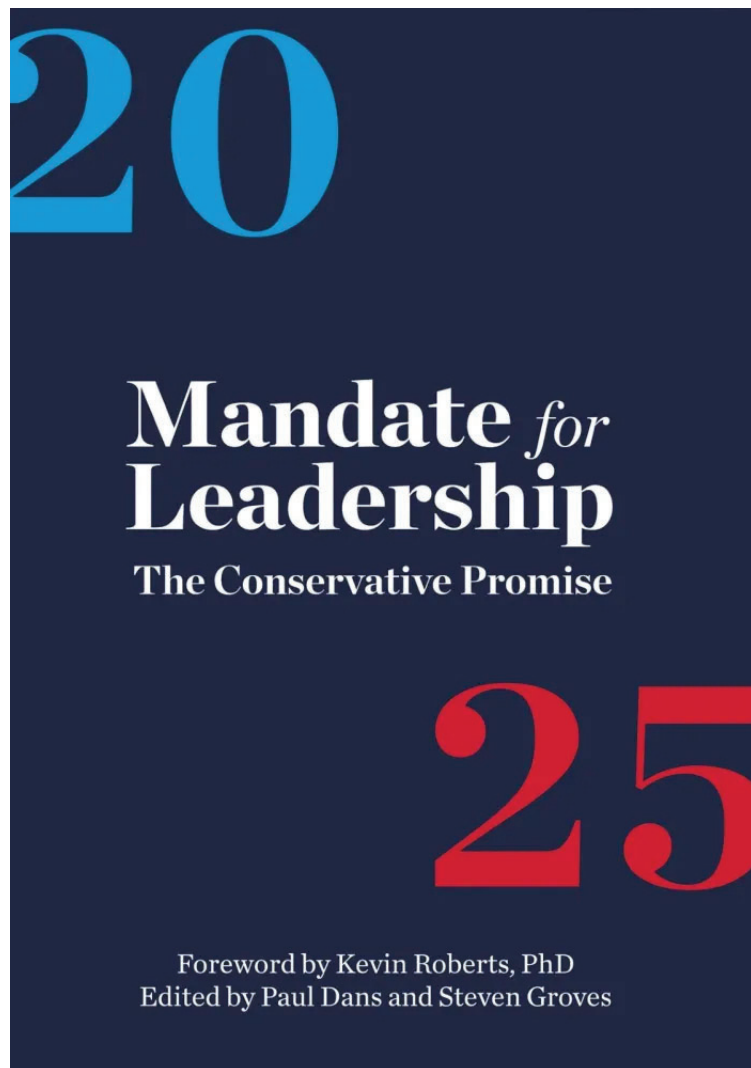
According to the non-profit organization Democracy Forward, the Graduate PLUS and Parent PLUS Loan programs, which are both issued by the Department of Education (DOE), face the threat of removal if Project 2025 is enacted. These two loans gain support from parents and graduating students to help students finance their academic goals. The assistance of the Graduate and Parent Plus Loans is fundamental in ensuring that those who seek undergraduate and graduate-level schooling can receive it regardless of monetary status. Cutting these loans out of the framework condemns a future generation to limited access to higher education.

The mandate also seeks to direct funding towards international

business studies with nearly half of the DOE funding going into these programs, according to Democracy Forward. By directing the majority of institutions funding into international business programs, funds for other disciplines will be slashed in the process. With a lack of funding, studies that fall outside of this group risk the threat of closures, as schools will struggle to provide salaries for professors and invest in the materials needed for the classes to function.

New areas of study will dwindle as funds will be funneled to keep pre-existing majors afloat. The education system currently suffers from a lack of funding, according to the American Bar Association, and Project 2025 will limit previously available academic pursuits even further.

Throughout the mandate, accessibility of student loans is continuously targeted, even for those who are in “Blue” Democratic states. The proposal seeks to deny access to loans to students who live in a state that provides in-state tuition for undocumented people. New York State is one of the 25 states that offer educational opportunities to those without citizen documentation, according to the Higher Education Immigration Portal. If this proposition comes to fruition, students



Cover of the plan./project2025.org

across the state face a grim reality.

Essentially, Project 2025 seeks to curate a system that retaliates against states that differ from the conservative views embedded throughout the outline by seeking to divert money away from “area studies” – courses that combine various disciplines like politics, economics, and sociology in order for students to gain a comprehensive understanding of a region’s history, politics and society. In doing so, the normalization of an America for some, not all, is furthered.

“Congress should wind down so-called ‘area studies’ programs at universities (Title VI of the HEA), which, although intended to serve American interests, sometimes fund programs that run counter to those interests,” as stated from Project 2025’s

outline.

The proposed mandate threatens to dismantle the foundation of higher education. By restricting and cutting funding for vital programs, countless students nationwide will lose access to their academic ambitions. Under the suggested mandate, schooling systems will further perpetuate economic inequality, creating a system where knowledge and growth are only accessible to those who can afford it.

We cannot allow this new system to neglect students who may already lack the funding to achieve their degrees. We must show up for local and state elections to shape a future for all Americans, and reject short-sighted proposals such as Project 2025. United students will never be defeated!

Women's Volleyball Recap (11/2 - 11/6)

By Manuel Polanco
Sports Editor

On Nov. 2, BC women's volleyball played against Montclair State and would lose the game 3-0 despite a resilient third quarter. BC lost each round 25-13, 25-12, and 25-23. This was their second to last game of the season, and they needed to win it in order to maintain their standing in the CUNY Athletic Conference (CUNYAC) tournament. Aleah Rafat had 10 kills and

one ace, Kela Duncan had three kills, Dinora Gomez had three kills, and Sydney Gdanski had one kill.

In their final game of the regular season, the Bulldogs faced off against Baruch College on Tuesday, Nov. 5. They needed to win this game in order to clinch a third seed for the CUNYAC championship tournament. BC would sweep Baruch and end their regular season with an even .500 record at 13-13. This win solidified BC with the number three



Freshman outside hitter Amy Kaza going for a spike./Courtesy of BC Athletics

seed. Aleah Rafat had 14 kills, Danielle Fuxman had six kills and four blocks, Kela Duncan had four kills and two blocks,

and Sydney Gdanski in the CUNYAC quarterfinals on Tuesday, Nov. 12 at 6:30 p.m.

The women's team will next play against Lehman College

New York Knicks Early Season Analysis

By Manuel Polanco
Sports Editor

The New York Knicks have become a powerhouse over the last couple of years in the NBA. This season, they hope to advance toward their big aspirations. With key acquisitions in the offseason, they are poised to make a run in the playoffs.

The Knicks came into this season with one goal in mind:

to win the Eastern Conference and make the NBA finals. They strengthened this goal by trading Minnesota Timberwolves star center Karl-Anthony Towns and Nets small forward Mikal Bridges. Towns is averaging 24.9 points, 12.3 rebounds, and 2.3 assists per game as a Knick currently, all while shooting 53.3 % from the field goal. Bridges so far has averaged 15.3 points, 3.6 rebounds, and

3.4 assists as a Knick. Bridges is shooting 46.7% from the field goal.

When you take all-stars like Towns and Bridges and pair them with Jalen Brunson, Josh Hart, and Anunoby, you expect success and consistency. Unfortunately, with all these new additions, the New York Knicks have started the season with a measly 4-5, and have similarly lost their last three games.

The team has had one setback surrounding their defensive abilities. So far, the Knicks rank 20th in defensive rating, with a rating of 115.2. No matter how good their offense may be, the team will end up playing catch-up repeatedly without a good defense. The Knicks will have to do a lot to rebound as critiques mount for a better season.

When you trade a fan favorite Dante DiVincenzo after a great playoff run, fans will become more critical. The Knicks also traded Julius Randle, a player who gave some great moments during his tenure with the Knicks.

The Cleveland Cavaliers and Boston Celtics are the only two teams with a winning record in the Eastern Conference, as the Knicks sit in fifth place behind the Orlando Magic and Indiana

Pacers. This could be due to a slow start, but soon the team will have to shift their gears and improve their defense.

When the fourth quarter begins, the Knicks looked incredibly fatigued and started to lose momentum. This happened when the team played against the Indiana Pacers on Nov. 10. They were up by two points entering the fourth quarter, and would go on to be outscored 40-27 by the Pacers. They gave up 21 three pointers in the process and lost 132-121.

The same issues were still present in the team: where is the defense, especially late in the game? Ultimately, the Knicks will have to bounce back to make the playoffs, and they will have to do so with better defense.



The potential 2024-2025 lineup, player Julius Randle (center right) has been traded./Knicks Media on Youtube

A Hidden Green Oasis: Inside Brooklyn College's Greenhouse

By Danielle Dweck
Staff Writer

Located high above the bustling campus, Brooklyn College's rooftop greenhouse is a hidden gem where sustainability meets science. Perched atop the Ingersoll Hall Extension, the greenhouse serves as a resource for research and education, specifically in the fields of aquaponics and sustainable agriculture. The Vanguard was given an exclusive tour to get full insight into what the greenhouse is achieving.

The Aquatic Research and Environmental Assessment Center (AREAC), the center running the use of the greenhouse, has cultivated tilapia in the basement of the Ingersoll Hall Extension for years, and the completion of the rooftop greenhouse was anticipated to facilitate a comprehensive aquaponics operation, integrating fish farming with plant cultivation.

The greenhouse is currently managed by AREAC lab manager Rob Dickie, whose expertise in integrated recirculating aquaculture, a sustainable aquaculture system that reuses water and nutrients from fish production to grow secondary crops, is used to demonstrate the viability of urban food production. Within the greenhouse, Dickie oversees a recirculating tilapia-vegetable system that serves as an educational tool for various courses and programs at BC. This system exemplifies the concept of a "closed-loop" food production model, where fish and plants are interdependent, creating an ecosystem in which waste is repurposed to benefit plant growth. According to

Dickie, the aquaponic system works by raising tilapia which, when fed, give off waste that is used to grow plants. "We grow the tilapia as our protein source, we feed the fish, they give off waste, that waste gets run through what's called a biofilter, and

the biofilters break down the harmful ammonia waste product from the fish into a useful product for the plants. That water travels through filters, runs down the plant bed, the plants can uptake the nutrients directly from the water, and the water returns to what's called a sub. This process is what's called a recirculating aquaculture system," Dickie told The Vanguard.

This system supports the growth of a variety of plants and vegetables in the



Tank where tilapia is grown and fed to produce waste that facilitates plant growth./Danielle Dweck

greenhouse, such as lettuce and mustard greens. Beyond supporting plant growth, the system's efficiency is noteworthy, as it allows for denser plant growth. This dense planting is unlike typical agriculture where plants need room to grow and spread out their roots to uptake nutrients, as the plants in this system are continually soaking in a nutrient-rich solution.

The greenhouse is structured to serve both as a research facility and as an educational resource. It is divided into a central space for general research and four peripheral rooms, each utilized by individual professors for specific research projects.

"We have peripheral rooms in the greenhouse which people utilize for all different types of research. As of now we have Dr. Jennifer Cherrier, Dr. Cheng, and Dr. Muth who run projects out of these spaces. They all come in to do their individual work and research, and use their space for their research and to teach their

students," said Dickie.

This setup allows students to observe or participate in a variety of experiments, gaining first-hand exposure to different methods of sustainable agriculture. Additionally, the greenhouse is used for academic classes, including aquaculture, which is the practice of farming aquatic organisms (such as fish, shellfish and plants) in controlled environments, and aquaponics, a system that combines aquaculture and

ecosystems," Sethi told The Vanguard. "It is exciting to be able to support research from Brooklyn College, supporting both basic research, evolution and biology, and aquatic ecosystems tackling the sustainability problem." According to Dickie, there are plans to expand the greenhouse's role in BC's curriculum. Future aquaculture classes are being developed for undergraduate students in the greenhouse through the Earth and Environmental Science Department. These classes will introduce students to the complexities of aquaculture, and will include hands-on labs within the greenhouse allowing students to apply classroom knowledge in a fully operational aquaponics system.

However, there are many factors and challenges involved with maintenance and upkeep of the greenhouse. "There are challenges with the science of the greenhouse, and the systems that we run. There are always variables that we can't control. Temperature plays a role, sunlight sometimes doesn't cooperate and once it gets cool the room temperature changes. The challenges are with aspects like that, which we adjust to," Dickie said. Nevertheless, there are many benefits of the greenhouse, including controlled conditions for plant growth and the opportunity for students to gain hands-on experience in relation to aquaculture systems and the way they run. Suresh Sethi, director of AREAC, described the greenhouse as an engaging and exciting facility that has multiple benefits for the BC students and the surrounding community.

"The greenhouse supports research, education, and outreach, bringing in community groups and other prospective students wanting to learn more about aquatic

Students interested in learning more about the greenhouse can visit www.brooklyn.edu/areac/



The greenhouse, located on the roof of Ingersoll Hall Extension, serves as a space for education and research to the BC community./Kate Dempsey

hydroponics (growing plants in water). The Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP), designed to support historically underrepresented and economically disadvantaged students pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and health-related fields, also utilizes the greenhouse. Over the summer, STEP ran a three-week aquaponics course in the greenhouse, where they were taught how to build their own aquaponic systems. The students played a key role in constructing the complex aquaponic system that remains in the greenhouse today, leaving a lasting mark on the facility. "The greenhouse is a research greenhouse, but is also used for education. We run classes out of here and what you see here in the greenhouse is the remnants of a class I ran in the summertime for the STEP program. We had them build their own aquaponics systems; I taught them how to build the system, how to work with the plants, how to work with the fish, how to test water quality, all education research," said Dickie.