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THE BROOKLYN COLLEGE VANGUARD

Spring 2025, Issue 6 vanguard.blog.brooklyn.edu  @thebcvanguard Wednesday, March 19th

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Cover by: Tony Lipka

GENERAL INQUIRIES
THEBCVANGUARD@GMAIL.COM

CLUB HOURS
118 ROOSEVELT HALL
THURSDAY: 12:30 P.M. - 1:30 P.M.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
PAULINA GAJEWSKI
PAULINAGAJEWSKI8@GMAIL.COM

MANAGING EDITOR
RAMI MANSI
RAMI.MANSI66@BCMAIL.CUNY.EDU

BUSINESS MANAGER
JASON LIN
JLIN82752@GMAIL.COM

LAYOUT EDITOR
AMIRA TURNER
ARIMARENUT@GMAIL.COM

DIGITAL EDITOR
KHALAILAH BYNOE
KHALAILAH.BYNOE10@BCMAIL.CUNY.EDU

PHOTO EDITOR
TONY LIPKA
TONYLIPKAVT@GMAIL.COM

SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER
NIDHI MAHADEVAN
NIDI.MAHADEVAN@MACAULAY.CUNY.EDU

CONTENT CREATORS
SERENA EDWARDS
SERENAED103@GMAIL.COM

KEY JONES-FORD
KIARATATSUJF@GMAIL.COM

PODCAST MANAGER
YASSIR AZZAM
YASSIR.AZZAM07@BCMAIL.CUNY.EDU

SECTION EDITORS

NEWS: VICTORIA KERAJ
KVICTORIAK1@GMAIL.COM

FEATURES: T'NEIL GOODEN
TNEILGOODEN617@GMAIL.COM

ARTS: JAIDA DENT
JAIDA.DENT1@GMAIL.COM

OPINIONS: EZAE DARBY
EZAEDARBY@GMAIL.COM

SPORTS: MANUEL POLANCO
MANNYPOLANCO764@GMAIL.COM
YUKI EKOLTBY
AYATALLAHELKOTBY@GMAIL.COM

STAFF WRITERS
ALFONSO ABREU
DARLENE ARVELO ALMONTE
ANGELINA BANEK
DANIELLE DWECK
EDEN LAWRENCE
MARS MARTE
LUIS ANGEL PEREZ MARTINEZ
ALLEN MARDAKHAYEV
EMILY NIXON
GIOVANNI RAVALLI
KIRA RICARTE
NOEL XAVIER VADI III
AVI WIZWER

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHERS
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T ABBATEMARCO
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ANNA KITCH

FACULTY ADVISOR
MJ ROBINSON

New Yorkers Protest Detainment of Pro-Palestine Advocate Mahmoud Khalil

By **Victoria Keraj**
News Editor,
Paulina Gajewski
Editor-in-Chief
and
Rami Mansi
Managing Editor

Following the detainment by U.S. authorities of pro-Palestine advocate Mahmoud Khalil on March 8, activist communities across New York have launched efforts to free him.

Khalil, a recent graduate of Columbia University, was arrested by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) over his connection to organizing pro-Palestinian protests. He is currently being held in a detention center in Louisiana, according to NPR. Tricia McLaughlin, assistant secretary for Public Affairs and spokesperson for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), mentioned that the arrest was connected to Khalil's role in the protests, stating that he "led activities aligned to Hamas, a designated terrorist organization," according to AP News.

After receiving his permanent residency in the U.S., Khalil, a Syrian-born Palestinian, became an avid activist for the Palestinian cause at Columbia University. Khalil's lawyers state that this arrest violated the free speech amendment.

In his letter released on March 18, which was his first public statement since the arrest, Khalil discusses the basis of his arrest. "My unjust detention is indicative of the anti-Palestinian racism that both the Biden and Trump administrations have demonstrated over the past 16 months [...] U.S. laws and practices that are used to violently repress Palestinians,

Arab Americans, and other communities. That is precisely why I am being targeted."

Khalil's detainment sparked discussion on his charges, with protests being planned across the country, as reported by NBC.

A protest consisting of students from NYU was held in Washington Square Park on Tuesday, March 11, where "around 1,000 protesters marched down MacDougal Street chanting 'Free Mahmoud Khalil now,'" as reported by Washington Square News. The protest began in the park with speeches from an NYU professor and student, and then the group headed east toward City Hall.

In another act of protest against the arrest on Thursday, March 13, a group of approximately 150 protesters entered Trump Tower and staged a sit-in, chanting "Free Mahmoud." Ninety-eight of the protesters were arrested, according to CBS.

On Saturday, March 15, a protest organized by various advocacy groups gathered in Times Square to demand Khalil's release. These groups included Shut it Down for Palestine, the People's Forum, and the New York Chapter of the Palestinian Youth Movement, according to the Columbia Spectator. Protestors held signs that stated "ICE OFF OF OUR CAMPUSES", "ICE IS NOT WELCOME HERE", and "FULL RIGHTS FOR ALL IMMIGRANTS."

His green card has been the main target point towards deportation, as it has been used as a way to disbar Khalil's legality in his residency. The offense claims that removing his green card



Protestors demonstrate in support of activist Mahmoud Khalil in Washington Square Park./*Courtesy of Yuki Iwamura*

would be justified and in the government's right, according to CNN.

In his letter, Khalil mentioned that his arrest is part of a larger initiative. "The Trump administration is targeting me as part of a broader strategy to suppress dissent. Visa holders, green-card carriers, and citizens alike will all be targeted for their political beliefs [...]. At stake are not just our voices, but the fundamental civil liberties of all."

High-ranking officials from the presidential administration are moving forward with the possible deportation and arrest of Khalil, who is to be tried for his protest efforts and is set to appear before an immigration judge on March 27.

The Guardian described this arrest as a lead to "a high-stakes legal battle between the First Amendment and what the government claims are its foreign policy powers." The First Amendment right constitutes Khalil's freedom to protest, but Khalil is at risk for deportation under certain circumstances.

According to the NYT, the legal basis for the deportation would come from a "little-used law to justify the detention.

The measure says [Marco Rubio, U.S. secretary of state], can initiate deportation proceedings against any noncitizen whose presence in the United States he deems a threat to the country's foreign policy aims."

In response, Rubio stated on CBS's Face the Nation: "If you are in this country to promote Hamas, to promote terrorist organizations, to participate in vandalism, to participate [...] in acts of rebellion and riots on campus, we never would have let you in."

On March 13, a federal judge temporarily blocked Khalil's deportation, choosing for Khalil to attend his court hearing, according to CBS News. As of March 19, a federal judge agreed that Khalil's case should be moved to New Jersey, denying the Trump administration's to dismiss the case or move it to Louisiana.

BC groups such as the BC Student Union and BC students in conjunction with Left Voice held open discussions in response this past Monday, March 17, and Tuesday, March 18.

The Vanguard will provide updates as they are made available.

WANT TO WRITE AND REPORT FOR THE VANGUARD?

Come join the team! We're looking for staff writers on a rolling basis. Email your inquiries thebcvanguard@gmail.com

Doing It for the Girlies: Rising Entrepreneur Lex Finley Talks Business, Balance, and Identity

By Rami Mansi
Managing Editor

With pop-ups on both sides of the country, magazine issues, and a runway show part of New York Fashion Week, the 90's and 2000's-fashion-inspired and vendor-fueled marketplace, Hot Girl Market (HGM), is built with the purpose of creating a safe space for female-owned vendors and a thriving area of identity and creativity.

The Vanguard had the opportunity to talk to Brooklyn College junior and founder of HGM, Lex Finley, about balancing responsibilities, finding motivation, and the future of HGM.

Finley's journey with HGM started before its very conception.

"About a year and a half prior, I began working with another flea market doing their social media and I was very much a utility," she stated. "I designed their website, managed it, and their vendors [...] which really gave me insight into how production and coordination works."

Learning from that experience, Finley opened her business curating and selling vintage clothes, developing her perspectives as both buyer and seller. Finley would branch out to create her current business venture, HGM.

"Creating [HGM] was definitely essential not just for me but for other women-owned businesses that want to feel welcome,

As a first-time business starter herself, Finley wants other hopeful business starters to know two things: the importance

"In 2024, I didn't give a lot of time to my personal life, I wasn't going out very much and I tried to fill my calendar with a lot of

her motivation to accomplish her goals and aspirations.

"My mom was my sole motivation for me to be here. She was the hardest-working woman of my life," Finley stated. "I got blessed with the best, most hardworking mother ever, and seeing her have to balance all of these responsibilities just proves that I can do it myself."

Femininity is present throughout Finley's life: her mother, her business, and her personality. However, having this femininity present as a woman in business comes with its difficulties. "[Men] will see that I'm affiliated with HGM and ask if I'm a vendor there [...] they never assume that I'm the owner," she stated.

With HGM constantly growing and incorporating new projects, Finley discussed the possible future of connecting her business ventures back to Finley's sustainable, community roots.

"I'm on the search for new brands and vendors and find proper spaces for them [...] I do want to open a store one day to have a sustainable space to sell clothing, vintage, even cameras, and jewelry, everything like that. I want to host a lot more community events that are intimate."



Founder of "Hot Girl Market" Lex Finley posing for Glitter Magazine./Courtesy of Arleth Pando

supported, and attract their customers," she stated.

Finding Finley's target audience came naturally, stating, "I did it for the girlies. The girls, gays, and theys who enjoy shopping for Y2K vintage clothing; [The market] is for anyone who wants to shop sustainably."

of trusting yourself and surrounding yourself with powerfully supportive people.

"You cannot do it alone. My family is one thousand percent the reason why I'm able to participate in markets."

However successful HGM becomes, a principle to any running business is the principle of sacrifice.

work and distractions," Finley discussed. "But moving forward into 2025, I'm clearing out space to prioritize what I value like school."

As stated, going into 2025, Finley has renewed properties to stay on track with her livelihood. She reflects on her time within the business field and explains

BC Conversations Resume: BC Clubs and Organizations Host Second “Community Reflections”

By Emily Nixon
Staff Writer

On March 11, The Brooklyn College (BC) Black and Latino Male Initiative (BLMI), BCAP (Brooklyn College AANAPISI Project), Immigrant Student Success Office (ISSO), LGBTQ+ Resource Center, and the Women’s Center held their second gathering for the BC student community in James Hall 2101.

“We wanna make sure that we focus today on how to do coping mechanisms,” said ISSO Director Jesús Pérez. “How to de-stress. How do we come together as a community to really take care of each other and ourselves?”

Event organizers emphasized the importance of remembering every step, no matter how small, to build resistance to helplessness and create community was an important part of resisting, as much as protesting or rioting.

“During this time, I think there’s so much frustration, and the first thing is we wanna act, we wanna do, we wanna jump in front of trucks and stop things and start riots and protests,” said Chris Rodriguez, director of BLMI. “But the reality is that, before we can even get to that point, is that we need to take the small steps of getting ourselves

together and collecting ourselves [...] I wanna say that getting together is a form of resistance, and I think sometimes, we don’t value that as much.”

Director of the LGBTQ+ Resource Center, Kelly Spivey, recounted their experience with the recent news about the incident regarding Columbia graduate student Mahmoud Khalil, who was arrested for his involvement with pro-Palestinian protests last spring.

“One of the things that I got fired up about last night is, I heard the news, and then I saw the protests online,” said Spivey. “And how thousands of people came out.”

Spivey also shared a printed QR code with a link to an online calendar for people to gain access to protest and community organizing information. However, Spivey warned protesting was not safe for everyone to partake in.

“There’s an online calendar for meetings, planning, organizing, and also protests and rallies,” said Spivey. “And I got excited, but then [event Organizers] were talking about this in the center this morning, and, you know, it is not as safe for some people to do something like this as it is for others.”

Keeping true to the last



Event organizers talk to participants./Emily Nixon

event’s timeline, the meeting began with a guided exercise to relax and focus the thoughts of participants and organizers alike. This time, Marina Weiss from the BC counseling center, led a mindfulness exercise after the organizers had introduced one another and passed out pizza and sodas.

“I don’t want to negate any other feelings. I like to think about emotional regulation like the weather,” said Weiss. “There might be days when we wake up, and we’re feeling really down, and we need to do things to make ourselves feel better [...] there might be days we don’t need to do anything because we feel okay.”

Weiss talked about the power of having coping mechanisms as tools to be used at a later date.

“Using tools like this [mindfulness exercise] can be useful to be that umbrella,

Participants were then led in an activity where they made paper flowers out of tissue paper and pipe cleaners. After participants were taught to create a flower, they were given the materials to create two more while the discussion part of the event was opened up.

Students began to voice their distrust and frustration with the government and BC admin alike.

“We’re seeing our rights stripped away in front our eyes, and, what annoys me most is that I feel like, you

know, us, the students and the community ourselves, we are putting in the effort to have these conversations and support each other,” said Sofia Sanchez, a junior in sociology and a candidate for USG vice president of 2025. “But, it’s not like Brooklyn College itself is trying to support us in that way. We have to do it for ourselves.”

The feeling of powerlessness also overwhelmed students, some of who lost hope for change.

“I wanna say that getting together is a form of resistance, and I think sometimes, we don’t value that as much.”

“It feels so overwhelming,” said Sanchez. “It feels sometimes like, ‘What am I supposed to do about it?’ There’s such a big looming power that it feels like there’s nothing I can do.”

Some students were overwhelmed with the amount

of negativity surrounding the constant checking of news sites, like Alante Richards, a peer mentor, peer advocate, and wellness fellow at ISSO, due to the news being a common topic of discussion in classrooms.

“I have a class where we spend ten minutes, as soon as the class starts, just talking about what’s happening in the world,” said Richards, “and there’s so much negativity.”

Despite being drained by the constant negative news, Richards also found that he had been celebrating the small wins more since the first community reflection meeting.

“Since we had our last community meeting, I have been able to experience all the good that has been coming,” said Richards. “I pay more attention to the small wins now because there’s so much negative. When I have a small win, I spend time basking in it, celebrating that because it helps me get through the rest of the day or the rest of the week.”

Students interested in future events from these clubs can check their Instagrams:

@lgbtqcenter_bc,
@womenscenterbc, @issobc,
@bcap.brooklyn, and
@bcblmi.



Director of the LGBTQ+ Resource Center Kelly Spivey explains future events being held./Emily Nixon

As Easy as Pie: The BC Mathematics Club Hosts Pi Day Celebration

By **Paulina Gajewski**
Editor-in-Chief

On Thursday, March 13, the Brooklyn College Mathematics Club turned an Ingersoll lecture hall into a pie fest. Pi Day, annually celebrated on March 14, is a day dedicated to the mathematical constant “pi”, which comes to approximately 3.14, hence the date. Co-hosted by the Office of the Dean of the School of Natural and Behavioral Sciences, the Math Club took this as an opportunity to gather math enthusiasts and spend the day with festivities akin to pi: a pie-eating contest, circle drawing contest, pi haiku, and a pi memory competition.

“Pi Day is a long-standing tradition that we celebrate every year around March 14 (3/14) to highlight the significance of math in everyday life,” Lise Augustin, president of the Math Club, told *The Vanguard*. “It’s consistently one of the most well-attended and appreciated events of the year.”

Pi Day was first celebrated in the U.S. in 1988. Physicist Larry Shaw, an employee of a science museum in San Francisco, The Exploratorium, is credited with the first official or large-scale celebration. In 2009, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a resolution recognizing March 14 as Pi Day. The event at BC offered a series of activities that, since 1988, have been commonly associated with the day.

“At the Pi Day event, we had fun activities like trivia games, math puzzles, and, of course, pie-eating contests,” Albert Ortiz, event coordinator for the Math Club, told *The Vanguard*. “My favorite part was seeing students from various majors come together and engage with math in a lighthearted and creative way.”

Club leaders mentioned that since their celebration last year, the event has significantly grown, along with interest in the Math Club.

“The turnout of 110-120 students, compared to 70 last year, was definitely a highlight and a testament to the growing interest in our club,” Ortiz stated.

This sentiment was echoed by Augustin. Since last year’s event, they’ve increased the activities held during the event.

“[...] we’ve hosted Pi Day in the past, but this year’s event saw significant growth. Last year, we had around 70 participants; this time, we welcomed over 100, closer to 120 [...] We also introduced more interactive games, increased the number of prizes, and added a dedicated photo section with professional photographers, enhancing the overall experience,” she told *The Vanguard*.

Students across different majors were more than welcome to attend. The club hopes to expand their network to a variety of departments.

“Even if you don’t like or know any math, there’s always the chance to build your network by talking to other students,” stated Rebecca Turay, senior and

chemistry major at BC. “In my opinion, that’s always great because it can be difficult getting connected to others since we go to a commuter school.”

The club also aims to hold collaborative events with other groups on campus to engage broader communities. This was evident in the help the club received from the Office of the Dean, faculty from the math department, the Chemistry Society, and the Women’s Center.

“The math club offers a variety of events designed to be accessible and engaging for students of all majors,” Augustin stated. “We organize interdisciplinary events, including collaborations with the [Computer Science] Club and the Chemistry Society, and in the past, we’ve worked with the Classics Society as well. These events highlight the connections between mathematics and other disciplines, making them appealing to a broader audience.”

This event is just one of many the Math Club hosts per semester. Their mission is to provide a space for students to take part in a broader community but also increase their support in the professional realm.

“The Math Club



Attendees participate in a pie-eating contest./Courtesy of @bcmathematicsclub

provides students with the resources, support, and community needed to succeed in their mathematical journeys. We host talks led by professors and a colloquium by distinguished math professors outside of BC, where they also share about research opportunities,” Augustin stated. “We also hold an annual career panel where alumni and industry professionals discuss the various career paths available to those with a math degree. This event helps students explore opportunities beyond academia, gain real-world advice, and build connections with professionals in the field.”

The club is currently

working on many initiatives this semester to expand their support. This also includes a physical lounge space for members of the club to have.

“Our top priority is completing the furnishing of the math lounge so it can officially open for students. We have several upcoming events planned for the remainder of the semester,” Augustin stated. “One of our biggest milestones is reactivating the Pi Mu Epsilon chapter at Brooklyn College after more than 40 years, with our induction ceremony set for March 27.”

This event provided an avenue for students who may not be math majors to get involved with the club. Many students may have an aversion to the subject, but the club offers opportunities for that demographic as well.

“We wanted to celebrate Pi Day as a way to make math more approachable and enjoyable for all students, not just math majors,” Ortiz stated. “It’s a great opportunity to break down stereotypes about math being difficult or boring and to show its fun and engaging side.”

Students interested in upcoming events from the BC Mathematics Club can check their Instagram, @bcmathematicsclub



Mathematics Club e-board and faculty advisors pose for group photo./Courtesy of @bcmathematicsclub

Stuck in the Library Holds Publication Event for New Magazine

By Jaida Dent
Arts Editor

On Tuesday, March 11, the Stuck in the Library magazine at Brooklyn College hosted a publication event for their fall 2024 publication. The event allowed students to come together, receive copies of the new publication, meet students featured in it, and enjoy an “Open Mic” with their peers.

“Stuck in the Library” is a literary magazine club on campus, which allows students and alumni to submit creative works to be published each semester. The club accepts poetry, prose, fiction, art, and photography to be in the final collections. The fall 2024 publication was centered around poetry, with a maximum of three submissions per person. While the club has many students who are involved in the English

department, everyone is encouraged to submit despite their major.

“I wanted to branch out to other majors and other professions just so we could see all of the students and their work because they’re just so talented and it’s just a great space to be involved in,” said Angela Scire, the secretary and chief of publications for Stuck in the Library.

Even though the publication is from fall 2024, the event was held during the spring 2025 semester due to scheduling issues that occurred last semester. As a club, they stressed the importance for them to have these events so students can come together to see their published work, while also being celebrated amongst their peers.

“It’s just very exciting to see these students, their excitement and holding

their paper, and they’re giving it to their families. It’s just really, really sweet [...] We really wanted to hold an event for each publication just because we feel like it’s important to celebrate each of them instead of merging events together,” said Scire.


Having the opportunity to be published is valuable to students, especially for creatives. Zoe Davis, a creative writing major, was grateful for the opportunity to have published pieces that were vulnerable and personal to her. Davis’ original piece, “Love Letter to Yeshua”, depicts her struggles with mental health and her religious journey. The inclusion of this piece in the magazine meant a lot to Davis and allowed her to speak about her faith in a place where she felt like it was hard to do so.

“Stuck in the Library gave me the opportunity to see my work in a publication again, and it’s made me want to continue writing after a long time of feeling like I didn’t want to do that anymore [...] They just really want us to express ourselves creatively and I’m touched that they put that in the publication, and I’m happy that it gets to be in something as cool as Stuck in the Library” said Davis.

In addition to celebrating the release of the new magazine, the event featured an “Open Mic” where students signed up to perform works featured in the magazine or new pieces they may have been workshoping for a class. Duly Rosenburg, a psychology major, was featured in this magazine, and also decided to perform her original music for the event.

“I sang a song that I wrote about my younger self because I find it really healing to send my love to her from where I am

SHAMROCK SHAKE RECIPE!



By Key Jones-Ford
Content Creator



St. Patrick’s Day, observed annually on March 17, is a religious and cultural holiday held on the death date of Saint Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. The day is often celebrated with parades, Irish food, and all things green.

Want to enjoy a Shamrock Shake in the spirit of the festivities? Here’s how to make one for yourself at home!

Ingredients:

- 3 cups vanilla bean ice cream
- 1 1/2 cups whole milk
- 1 1/2 tsp. mint extract
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 9 drops green food coloring

For garnish: whipped cream and cherries

Directions:

Step 1: Using a blender, blend ice cream, milk, mint extract, vanilla extract, and food coloring together until desired consistency is met.
Step 2: Pour into glass and top with whipped cream and maraschino cherries.

Enjoy!



Frances Porter performing an original song./Jaida Dent



Group picture of Stuck in the Library members and published writers./Jaida Dent

now. I love open mics and find them really inspiring for my own creativity as well,” said Rosenburg.

As the semester continues, the club is looking forward to new submissions for the next publication, as well as new members joining the team. Many of the e-board members are graduating this semester, and are looking to welcome in new students who will help ensure the longevity of the organization.

“I hope that people feel the urge to join this club since half of us are graduating on the e-board. There is the ability for the club to die if none

of the e-board members get replacements,” said Scire. “I feel like it’s really important not to let this club die just because of how important it has been for me as a student here and how important I know that it has been for other members of the club.”

Students interested in joining Stuck in the Library can follow their Instagram: @stuckinthelibrary.

Spring Has Sprung: BC Garden Engages Students Through Art

By **Angelina Banek**
Staff Writer

As spring approaches, community gardens are beginning to spring back to life. On Wednesday, March 12, students and community members gathered at the Brooklyn College Garden to practice still-life drawing. The workshop was led by professional artist Jamie Chan, who lives in the neighborhood and has her own dedicated plot in the garden.

The BC Garden is located near the Avenue H entrance to campus and is over 35 years old. Yarnell Bauzil, BC Community Garden coordinator and urban farmer of almost 10 years pointed out blooming yellow crocus flower bulbs that may have been planted in the garden 20 years ago. According to the BC archives website, the college has a community garden legacy dating back to the late 1970s.

Bauzil described the significance of having the BC garden space open to students as well as the surrounding neighborhood.

"I know especially for folks who do live in the buildings, this is kind of their green space. Like folks hang out here, they bring their kids here,

they're also like growing food for their families here, where if you live in a building you know you can't do that," she said.

Using plants and various garden tools, Chan displayed still life scenes on tables in the garden. Participants then used charcoal to sketch what they saw.

Like most community gardens in New York, sounds of traffic and helicopters mixed with the sounds of nature. Mourning doves perched above the new artist working in the garden. Chan also played instrumental music for people to listen to as they drew.

As an environmental science student at BC, it was Valeri Zapeta's first time visiting the garden.

"The air and the sun is really calming for me, and it just feels very nice," she said. "It makes me feel really happy, especially since winter's over."

Others, like Dominique Gagne, have been involved in the garden but experienced it in a new way during the event.

"It's just a different way to experience the garden, because I'm usually here, like, weeding and picking tomatoes and stuff. And it's really a nice way to build community," said Gagne. She is a musician



Community members and students practice drawing in the garden./Angelina Banek

who lives a few blocks away from campus.

Chan has planned and created a curriculum for five art workshops. She encourages students to engage with the garden and create within the outdoor space.

"I think that, like, being able to mingle with community gardeners who live in this neighborhood seems like a very rare experience for college students," Chan said. "I went to UCLA, so like way far away, but I feel like I could have benefited a lot from meeting community members as a student."

Nana Santini, a senior at BC studying art and

education, described how the lesson felt different from a classroom experience.

"It's actually just really nice to just be outside and draw," she said. "And like, I took a drawing class [at BC] and we did still lifes, and I kind of just fell in love with the academic process of it. But, being out here in the garden space, it's more loose and has more freedom. It's not so strict. You're not in a classroom setting. You're just outside chilling with some people, enjoying the sun."

Lindsey Weiss, a community member who will have a garden plot this year, enjoyed the experience of slowing down to create something new.

"I think it's so nice to stop and do an activity, especially an activity that is not just working or consuming," Weiss said. "That there are so many possible ways to engage with nature and with the neighborhood."

As a community member, Weiss described how she has seen new life breathed into the garden.

"I know that the garden has been really revived

in the last couple years, and so much of that has been led by Yarnell, and the more investment put in the garden, the more people want to come work in the garden and the better it becomes," Weiss said.

Bauzil shared many ways students can become involved with the garden, and said they are welcome to visit the space during open hours every weekday from 10 am to 4 pm.

"You can come have lunch here, you can come hang out here, just don't eat anyone's fruit or [vegetables] please," she said.

There are also upcoming volunteering opportunities in the garden, and if students want to garden in their own plot, they are eligible to apply.

"We would love to see more student events in this space. It's a huge space. And I would love to see it utilized in all different kinds of ways, but it's really the campus' garden, and the garden is kind of the bridge between community life and campus life," Bauzil said.



A still-life scene created by artist Jamie Chan./Angelina Banek

Sheikh Mohammad Badawy Sheds Light on the Palestinian Cause to BC Students

By T'Neil Gooden
Features Editor

On March 13, Brooklyn College (BC) students gathered in the Bedford Room of the Student Center to listen to speeches about activism and self-reflection from Sheikh Mohammad Badawy, alumni of BC and resident Sheikh, at the Muslim American Society (MAS) Youth Center. To be called a Sheikh is to be known as an arab leader or chief of an arab tribe, village, or family.

Students of Justice in Palestine (SJP) at BC invited Badawy to speak to students about the importance of spreading justice for the Palestinian cause as activists, especially Muslim activists. Badawy graduated from the College of Shariah at Umm AI Qura University in Makkah and has a BA in Health Science and Nutrition Science from BC.

"I want us to challenge ourselves. We're going to get uncomfortable right now. Because that's what it takes," Badawy told the audience.

Badawy started his speech with an Arabic prayer and explained the five main points that challenge the concept of justice that students should live by if they choose to spread the word about what is happening to the people of Palestine.

"Be someone who stands up for justice all the time; let it be something that you always do. Even be witnesses for the sake of Allah," Badawy said. "Even if it means it's against yourselves or your parents or your close relatives and whether a person is rich or poor, Allah has priority over both their status."

Badawy followed this first declaration by explaining that desires should not be the only thing that makes you act justly.

"It's not a one-time thing. It's not a one-off. It is not something that I do when it's convenient. It is not something that I do when there is a full crowd. I don't come in here and

I don't get daunted by the lack of a crowd," Badawy told the audience. Students listened intently as Badawy continued to explain that activism should be continuous.

Before continuing the declarations, Badawy spoke about attending the Mahmoud Khalil rally on March 12 and being emotionally shocked by this protest.

"It was very difficult to see no Muslims. I'm not gonna lie. I left almost in tears. It was very difficult to drive back home. But I just recalibrated. I had to recalibrate [...] it's very disturbing to see the people whose tradition, whose scripture, whose supposed conviction down to their core are absent. That bothered me; I can't pretend that it didn't. But it didn't derail me," Badawy said.

After explaining the feelings experienced at the rally, Badawy explained the second declaration that went as follows: Get uncomfortable, even if it's against yourself.

"That's what it means to be Qawwam (قَوَّام), someone who stands up for justice all the time. And that takes looking in the mirror and saying, this is not something

"That's what it means to be Qawwam (قَوَّام), someone who stands up for justice all the time."

that I'm doing; this is an identity that I have," Baway told the audience.

Badawy continued to explain that being an activist with values for the Palestinian Cause is more than just a feeling.

"This is my job here on



Sheikh Mohammad Badawy speaking to students about the importance of activism for Palestine./T'Neil Gooden

earth. This is my purpose. To worship my Creator, which is the ultimate establishing of justice, to allocate the rights of the Creator to the one, the only one who truly deserves it. That's on a personal spiritual level. And then on a societal level, everything that he called out as injustice, as evil, I'm an opponent of, I'm an enemy of. I exhaust all the means that are at my disposal to stand against."

Badawy gave students a moment to reflect and think about the secular items they own, such as Amazon accounts, clothing from certain companies, etc, and how those impact them. He asked them to give thought to items like clothing and instructed them to be conscious of what their belongings may represent.

"I am an oppressor sometimes or all the time. I am entwined into this fabric, and I need to remove it. It might be painful, it might be difficult, but that's fine, cause that's what it takes. That's what it means to stand for justice. That's what it means to be an advocate," Badawy said.

Badawy reiterated to students the importance of being able to get uncomfortable when it comes to pursuing an

opinion that people can oppose.

"Getting uncomfortable, that's important, and then getting to work. Analyzing every morsel of food, every item of clothing, every accessory, every service that I sign up for, everything that I engage in and my money goes to, my attention and my emotion and my support, can I justify it in front of my creator?"

The final three declarations are as follows: "Even if it's against friends and family, they're gonna need special attention, and they are the starting point of any movement. You can't be focusing on the outside while those on the inside are your opponents or making your journey more difficult," Badawy told the audience. "Number four is to take wealth, status, and personal preference out of the equation. And then number five, finally, is don't forget the personal justice that'll be established on you on the day of judgment, that this is where it's all headed, and that is the bigger picture."

Badawy made a significant impact on students and their reasons for becoming advocates.

"I feel like Sheikh Badawy covered topics that people are too ignorant to hear

when it comes to Palestine, and I feel like everyone should learn more about this Holy Land and about what is currently happening there," Mariam Hassan, a junior at BC, told The Vanguard. "Something that resonated with me when it came to this talk was when Badawy talked about what the definition of victory is when it comes to Muslim students. For example, he said "halal lunches" aren't really a victory when other issues are happening with Muslim students on campus. BC should be exposed to these conversations because I believe this is knowledgeable information."

Badawy finished his speech by reiterating that students should challenge themselves to be activists all the time, not only when their desire for change is strong enough to create advocacy.

"Be people who stand up for justice all the time. There are no conditions. There are no ifs, ands, or buts. You can go to somebody and speak to them and you can pour your heart out, and they spit in your face and your mission doesn't change," Badawy said.

BC History Professor Stresses Resilience as Scholarship on Racism and Colonialism Comes Under Attack

By Rossi Sealey
Staff Writer

In a medium-sized classroom filled to the brim with student in Boylan Hall, Marybeth Tamborra, who was an adjunct professor at Brooklyn College and is a doctoral candidate in modern European and American history at the CUNY Graduate Center, knew that teaching her students about racism and history would lead to one thing: for her students to have a voice.

She was finishing her PhD while teaching a global history course labeled “Shaping of the Modern World” from 2020 to 2023. The class explored themes of capitalism, fascism, and colonization.

“As a teacher, I organized my section of Shaping of the Modern World around the history of capitalism and colonization,” said Tamborra.

Tamborra ensured her students voiced their opinions on these topics and raised awareness at a state and school where she could teach about the history of racism and marginalization.

As of now, President Donald Trump has been reelected and has threatened to cut federal funding from K-12 schools and universities that teach or consider race in any way, as previously reported by The Vanguard. This includes removing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) programs in his executive orders. Schools may be impacted negatively after receiving this letter from the Department of Education: either risk funding or comply with the executive orders.

“Since coming into office, the Trump administration’s executive orders have included sweeping measures to target people of color and to rewrite history,” said Tamborra.

Professors in different states of the U.S., such as Florida, could face termination, restrictions, and injustices from politicians like Governor Desantis, anti-education laws, and educational gag orders (which censor topics from the past). This includes the “Stop The Woke Act” that bans the curriculum materials from the New York Times’s 1619 project. The project notably highlights racism and slavery as being the foundation of the U.S.. Moreover, AP African American Studies in the College Board program has labeled Florida as one of three states that have the course banned, along with Arkansas and South Carolina.

The attack on DEI continues, as more than 30 states have introduced bills to ban or limit it. As of February 2025, several states, including Florida, Texas, and Alabama, have signed at least 13 bills into law, while others await final approval.

According to Statista, states are introducing bills and measures to restrict schools from teaching critical race theory. Eighteen states passed laws and approved measures, while twenty-four states vetoed, overturned, or stalled them indefinitely.

“The point of these orders is to create chaos and fear so that teachers shy away from discussing anything that might not be ‘patriotic,’” said Tamborra.

According to a

UCLA report, the U.S. government introduced 563 measures to restrict critical race theory and adopted 241. Trump also signed an executive order to combat race and sex stereotyping in 2020.

“The distortion of the truth of Black history has been yet another form of anti-Black violence so prevalent in our country,” said Tamborra.

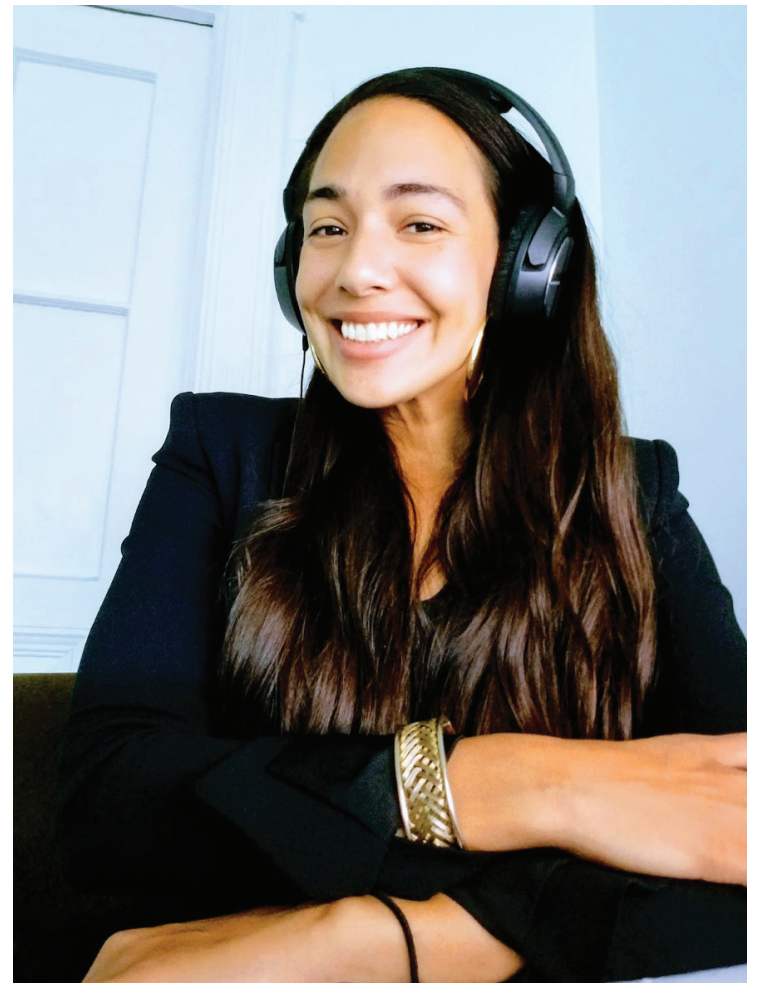
Teachers cannot teach these necessary topics on inequality with certain curriculums without risking their jobs and livelihoods to speak to students. Tamborra does what she can to at least address the matter in an educational setting.

“As someone who studies Black thinkers, I wanted to emphasize their voices throughout the syllabus,” said Tamborra. “I want my students to read about the Haitian revolution not from a textbook but from CLR James, and I want students to think about colonialism alongside Franz Fanon.”

Tamborra often engages in discussions with her peers, expressing their shared concerns about the potential impact of teaching restrictions in different states on issues related to race, sex, and inequality.

“As a PhD student, many of my peers are deeply worried about getting jobs, and several of my colleagues study queer history, Black history, immigration history, and Palestinian history,” said Tamborra. “At department meetings, I have heard PhD students express anxiety that the spreading bans may result in real consequences in their ability to find jobs.”

Banning scholarship and books that explore the history of racism can lead to censorship



Professor Marybeth Tamborra./Courtesy of Marybeth Tamborra

for students, especially in a historical setting. This sentiment is shared by others in the history department.

“Book bans harm society by suppressing the spread of knowledge,” Gunja Sengupta, an author and history teacher at BC and the CUNY Graduate Center, stated. “And knowledge about all aspects of our history as a nation, including difficult ones, such as racism, is necessary for us to understand how structures of inequality developed historically.”

Not only are professors such as Tamborra distressed by the bans on education, but students are distressed as well.

“As an AP African American studies high school teacher, I have witnessed the struggles of communities in Virginia and Florida where students and teachers are fighting for inclusion in their curriculum,” said Raphael Nelson, a teacher at Bronx School for Law and a student at Brooklyn College who is pursuing

a masters in history. “We must advocate for studies that have been banned because there are organizations all over the country, including Moms for Liberty, who organize around the country to attack materials that promote inequality.”

Tamborra emphasizes the multitude of challenges faced by marginalized groups, particularly Black people. These challenges continue to persist as there are ongoing attempts to erase their generational history, especially in the educational system.

“This anti-Blackness has long attained a very sinister attack on Black history. Part of the violence of anti-Black racism, not only does it attack,” said Tamborra, “but it then denies having done so and blames the victim for his wound.”

Brooklyn College Presents “Writing for Remembrance, Release, and Resistance”

By Darlene Arvelo
Almonte
Staff Writer

The Woody Tanger auditorium was occupied by an audience of students, staff, and faculty for the presentation of Dr. Carla España’s “Narrative Writing with Latinx Teens: Testimonios, Texts, and Teachings.” In conjunction with several Brooklyn College graduates, España, an assistant professor of Bilingual Education and Puerto Rican, and Latinx Studies at BC, presented her life’s work. This included her past seasons of planting, the present fruit and the blooming future of ethnic studies and literature by marginalized voices in the face of current censorship and removal threats.

España, who is of Chilean origin, has also authored several other texts including “En Comunidad: Lessons for Centering the Voices and Experiences of Bilingual Latinx Students” in conjunction with her former student Dr. Luz Yadira Herrera, “Translanguaging Collection: Affirming Bilingual and Multilingual Readers,” “Latinidad: Celebrating 40 Big Dreamers,” as well as several book chapters, educator guides and journal articles.

Described on España’s website as “the book of [her] heart,” “Narrative Writing with Latinx Teens” sews a thread through España’s trajectory as an educator of writing, ethnic studies and Latinx youth literature – fields that, throughout her

journey, have often bled onto each other. Inspired by her past students’ testimonies on writing as a means for “desahogo” or “undrowning,” the book includes poetry, middle-grade, and young adult literature in lesson sequences introduced by and featuring interactive mixed media and texts across its chapters. The book intends to spark and guide the conversations on ethnic studies, bilingual curriculum, and educator readiness.

In this presentation of her latest work, España was accompanied by several BC graduates in the K-12 classroom. Maricruz Sanchez Hernandez, a former student of España’s, joined the presentation with a virtual tour of her classroom – showcasing the various tools and techniques she utilizes to encourage the success

of her bilingual students. Miguel Figueroa, current BC student and former winner of the 2024 Humanities and Social Sciences Expo, shared his story and accentuated the importance of España’s “generative” work.

Reflecting on his personal experience as a bilingual educator and student, Manuel Martinez Valdez shared interpretive statements on the bilingual “word walls” that share space for both Spanish and English words in the multilingual classroom. Martinez Valdez shared that, in his bilingual brain, “there [are] no separate English wall and Spanish wall[s]. They mix.”

This pointed again to España’s career-long work in translanguaging – a pedagogical approach allowing multilingual learners to utilize the full linguistic repertoire

available to them to learn and communicate.

España began her journey as an educator as a middle-grade bilingual teacher in the New York City public school “P.S. 161 Don Pedro Albizu Campos School.” Later, she became an adjunct lecturer and clinical doctoral lecturer at Hunter College, and a literacy consultant to schools across the United States, Mexico, Chile, and Colombia. Open access to education is a pillar of España’s work as many of her courses are Open Educational Resources / Zero Textbook Cost classes. Several of her courses, including “Banned Books: Teaching Latinx Children and Youth Literature,” “Bilingualism in the 21st century,” and “Spanish for Teachers and Other Bilingual Professionals” are currently accessible on CUNY Academic

Commons.

Outside of her academic work, España is the co-founder of En Comunidad Collective – a partnership which “seeks to be in community with educators, education leaders, and children’s book publishers to reimagine the education of bilingual and multilingual children,” according to their digital home.

The teachers and students whom she has encountered across schools in New York City and beyond are the nurturers of España’s work – a cyclical process in which España strives to nurture the same community that has for years nurtured her as both an educator and a student.



Photos courtesy of Darlene Arvelo, Carla España, and Mike Mena. Collage by Amira Turner

The Blackprint: Underrated Black Women in Journalism

By **Serena Edwards**
Content Creator

Journalism has defined the way we receive our news and who we trust to deliver it. In a male-dominated field, it's easy to overlook the impact of women in journalism, especially Black women. In current times, it is important to pay attention to Black women because they are essential pieces in history. Black women journalists like Ida B. Wells, Joy-Ann Reid, and Ethel L. Payne have shaped the way I approach the journalism field.

Ida B. Wells

Ida B. Wells is a catalyst for Black women in journalism by discussing and investigating controversial topics like lynching during the Jim Crow era. Wells was born in 1862 in Mississippi during a time when slavery was close to being abolished and lived when Jim Crow laws would soon come into effect. She used journalism to advocate for women's suffrage and civil rights. Wells' experiences from childhood are rooted in her activism. She also investigated lynching and racial inequity within the South. After her friend was lynched in 1892, she took it upon herself to investigate this more. Wells reported the truth, fact-checking and providing first-hand information from the actual scene. Through her investigations, Wells was able to expose the wrongful lynching of Black men. The methods Wells used when investigating these violations of rights are still integrated into investigative journalism today.

Wells also co-founded the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), an organization known for its strong roots within the Civil Rights movement and its continued impact on modern-day society. During the time Wells was alive, being a Black female

journalist was unheard of and very dangerous. Wells' journalism and advocacy came with the risk of safety. Wells received death threats from people who opposed her journalistic skills. Her determination and perseverance inspire me as a journalist.

Joy-Ann Reid

Joy-Ann Reid was born

me. For the first time, I felt like Black women were able to have the freedom to talk about politics. Reid's growth was a major boost for many other Black women in the media. In 2020, she went from weekend television to prime-time television and had her show "The Reid Out" air on Mondays at 7 p.m. What made Reid different from others in the field was her unapologetic

hear perspectives from activists on prime-time television. Reid once said, "Challenging the status quo is necessary for progress," which is what she has done throughout her career path. Though she is no longer a part of MSNBC, her impact is undeniable.

Ethel L. Payne

Ethel L. Payne was born in

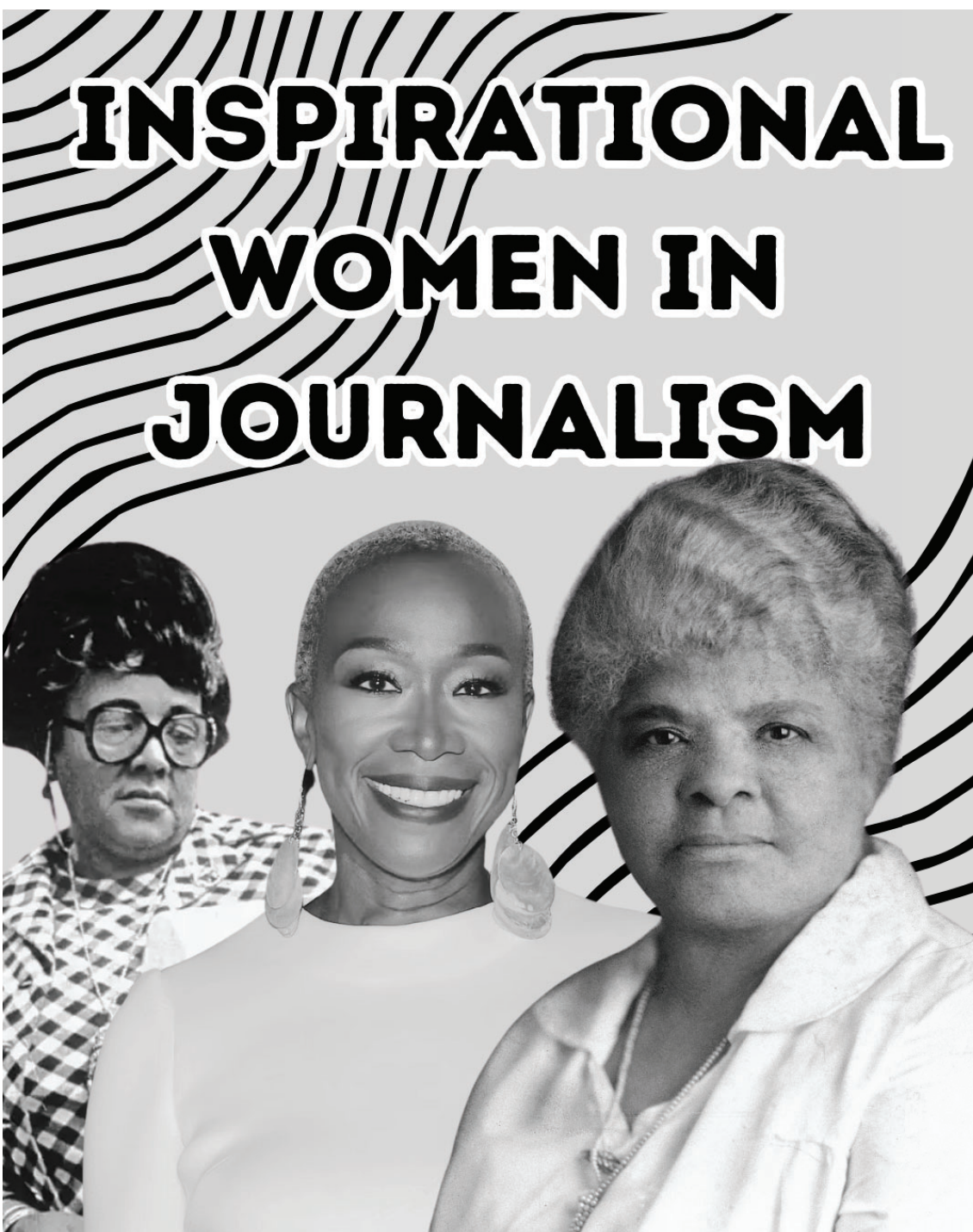
Payne's accomplishments that has been overlooked is being the first Black woman to be included in the White House Press Corps. She embodies many of the traits that I hope to obtain such as being more outspoken on topics by which she would hold those in power accountable for racial discrimination.

Payne wrote articles and documented everything that she had witnessed while away in Japan for Army Services during the Korean War. When returning to the States, she continued to use her voice on the show "The Chicago Defender", where she served as a correspondent. During the Jim Crow Era, some perceived it was better to stay quiet, but Payne did the opposite. Her tactics of direct questions and strong tone of voice are important to practice as a journalist today.

She used her platform to hone in on the discrimination that Black people were facing at that time.

Her outspokenness caused backlash from other white male reporters and people to diminish her talents as a reporter. This, however, only gave her more ambition when reporting, as she would go on to write a series titled "The South at the Crossroads", which examined the civil rights movement. Payne reported on well-known civil rights movements like the Montgomery Bus Boycott, in which she had the opportunity to interview a key leader in the movement, Martin Luther King. Payne showed that her skin color wasn't an obstacle but an enhancement of the importance of diversity within the journalism field.

All of these women have defied the odds by breaking both racial and gender barriers and pioneering the techniques journalists use today. Wells, Reid, and Payne demonstrated that gender and race aren't obstacles, but an asset to modern-day journalism.



(L to R) Ethel L. Payne, Joy Ann-Reid, Ida B. Wells./Graphic by Serena Edwards

in Brooklyn, NY, and is a Harvard University alumna. Reid's career started with her website "The Reid Report" and later expanded to a political commentator on MSNBC.

When I first knew I wanted to be a journalist, it was because of Joy-Ann Reid. I first saw her show that aired on MSNBC named "AM Joy". Watching Reid connect Black history to current news fascinated

attitude when it came to her opinions. Being a Black woman in America means having to constantly walk on eggshells when speaking about taboo topics. Black women are constantly portrayed as aggressors because of the color of our skin, and any passion that is shown is often misconstrued as anger. Reid opened her platform to those who aren't usually shown. The audience could

1911 in Chicago, IL, during this time period segregation was well in effect and there were extreme limitations to career choices as a Black person. Payne is known as the First Lady of the Black Press for her outgoing tactics in journalism. Payne served as both an activist and a journalist, using her writing to spread awareness of civil rights along with the mistreatment of Black men within the military. One of

Lessons Learned: Interview With the Men's Basketball Team Following the 2024-2025 Season

By Yuki Elkotby
Sports Editor

After the Brooklyn College men's basketball team took down the City College of New York Beavers on Sat. Feb. 22, they achieved the ticket to advance to the CUNYAC semi-finals to face the Baruch College Bearcats on Tuesday, Feb. 25. Unfortunately, the men's season came in short, as the Bulldogs lost to the Bearcats via a score of 60-62.

The BC men's basketball team has outdone themselves compared to previous years, as they closed their season with 13 wins. The last time the team upheld such a winning record was in the 2019-2020 season, when they achieved 13 wins and 16 losses, including winning the CUNYAC Championship and losing in the first round in NCAA against rank #1, Swarthmore College.

This past season was a reflection of the mentality and the team culture of BC, and the standards that were held by the coaches

and seniors. Out of the 15 players, seven were seniors, and this greatly impacted the team dynamics.

"There are standards that [are] followed based in that the senior set," Jeffrey Jean-Baptiste, head coach of the team, stated. "There's a lot of wisdom in the gym [...] the teaching we've done over the last couple years, they're able to do it naturally so that the new players can not only just hear the coaches, but there is somebody to model."

The teams put in immense effort into their training for these games. This, however, does not always mean that the outcome will be as expected.

"It has become a life lesson now. Everything that you would think you deserve, you don't get at times," Jean-Baptiste told The Vanguard. "You [have] to accomplish this, understand it, recognize it, put your head down, move forward, so hopefully, eventually, you can get what you deserve at the end. Even if you don't get it, you put your best effort

in so that you don't have to feel ashamed that you didn't give it what it deserves [...]"

Jean-Baptiste shared the three core values of an athlete: hard work, toughness, and character. These are necessary foundations, especially for athletes to help cycle the negativity into positivity. These were echoed by seniors' values and no. 11, David McFadden.

"Just keep your head down, keep working, things gonna work themselves out," he stated. "You just gotta make sure you're ready for your opportunity. Just staying focused and levelheaded is

"Jean-Baptiste shared the three core values of an athlete: hard work, toughness, and character."



Bulldogs practicing on the court./Courtesy of TDog

super important."

Despite their loss, the team remained steadfast in their beliefs.

"Try to stay level-headed through the highs and lows and I guess don't let your emotions get the best of you," Luqman Ahmed, senior and no. 4, stated. "Try to just understand the process; it's long and hard but you gotta just stick with it."

For some, the support from their teammates was invaluable.

"I got a dunk, and the way our bench reacted, that's my favorite moment," Mekhi Barlow, senior and no. 34,

stated.

The teammates and coaches have created strong bonds throughout the past seasons.

"Understanding what it'll be like to be a part of this team is just family honestly," stated Jean-Baptiste. "I love the fact that they come in from all different walks of life, but now they're forever bonded."

SUDOKU

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Solution

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