



THE GOTHIC TIMES

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The Alumni Issue

For our first issue of 2018 we reached out to NJCU alumni to talk about their life after graduation...



Courtesy of Dawn Crowell

From Student to Teacher: Dawn Crowell's Diverse Education and Career

Suhas Vittal
Reporter

Professor, environmental scientist, project manager, researcher, massage therapist and single mother; these are some of the roles Dawn Crowell has taken throughout the course of her life. Crowell attended NJCU from 2011 to 2013. She originally went to

Virginia Union University in 1995 where she majored in psychology. After earning a full scholarship to Stonybrook University in New York she decided to transfer. Unfortunately, her plans were derailed when her father was diagnosed with cancer and she had to return home. Two years later he passed away.

Crowell became licensed as a massage therapist and worked at a spa in Jersey City from 2008 to 2013. She wanted to finish her degree and chose NJCU because it was close to her job. Crowell wanted to major in a STEM related field because she was always passionate about science and was interested in becoming a marine biologist. She chose to major in geoscience because they didn't offer marine biology. In her first year she joined geology club where she networked and studied with other students. As an intern she worked for the university and did independent research regarding ocean acidification and its effects on coral reefs in the Bahamas.


After graduating she started working for the TRC Environmental Corporation, an environmental consulting firm. During her three years there she examined construction sites to see if they complied with environmental standards and regulations. She also went back to school to earn her master's in environmental law

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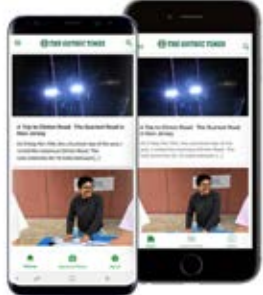


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and policy at the Vermont Law School. Afterwards she became an environmental scientist and project manager for PS&S, an engineering firm where she developed a quality assurance program.

Looking back on her experience at NJCU, Crowell enjoyed the smaller class

sizes, dedicated professors who took time to explain things, and wanted students to exceed expectations. Her advice to students is to set realistic goals and be diligent in following them. One of the things that helped motivate her whenever she felt like giving up was her religion. Crowell is a practitioner of Nicheren Buddhism which helped her overcome her fear and self-

doubt. She also created vision boards, read self-help books and surrounded herself with people with similar goals. Another thing that helped motivate her was remembering that she wanted to set an example for her two sons and her promise to her father that she would finish college.

Crowell currently teaches a course in urban environmental issues as an adjunct professor at

NJCU, in addition to becoming an environmental scientist at Matrix World Engineering. She never thought of herself as a professor, but after she visited the school to help geoscience students with their career paths, the chairperson of the department recommended her for the position. She loves sharing her knowledge and inspiring up and coming environmental scientists.

From Undercover to The Courts

How a Former Fake Wise Guy Found Therapy in Basketball

Monica Sarmiento
Editor-in-Chief

From mingling with mobsters on the streets to arguing with players on the court, Bob Delaney's life sounds like the plot to a Martin Scorsese movie. It's a comparison he's heard a lot over the years but one he doesn't deny.

Delaney attended NJCU (called Jersey City State College at the time) in the 1970s, studying criminology. He was a captain of the Gothic Knights men's basketball team for two seasons (1970-72) and on the baseball team for one year (1972). In his senior year, he left school to join the New Jersey State Police, where his father also worked as a trooper.

A few years later however, Delaney completely vanished, much to the worry and confusion of his colleagues. Delaney reappeared soon enough, only this time he was known as Robert "Bobby" Allen Covert. He was chosen by the State Police to work undercover with the FBI on Project Alpha (the first time the FBI had ever



Courtesy of Bob Delaney

worked together with state authorities on an investigation) and was given a new identity, social security number and even a fake criminal record.

He was tasked with infiltrating the northern New Jersey mafia. As Covert, he

opened a trucking company, Alamo Transportation, on Communipaw Avenue in Jersey City. This company, which ended up with 35 tractor trailers delivering produce around the country, ultimately served as Project Alpha's cover. With

hidden cameras around the offices, wires and taped phone conversations, Delaney helped reveal how the mob corrupted New Jersey businesses.

Alamo Transportation and Project Alpha were both a success and led to Delaney mingling with mobsters. He was meeting them for dinner, being introduced to their families and even playing ball with men who would not hesitate to kill someone they considered an enemy. The experience was so stressful and mentally exhausting that Delaney would find himself physically sick on his way home at night.

At the end of Project Alpha, 30 people from mob families in northern New Jersey and New York were arrested and put behind bars. The stress from the job did not end there for Delaney, unfortunately. Adjusting to life after the investigation was difficult for him, "I always tell folks there are two great days in your life,"

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he said, "the day you are born and the day you figure out why you were born." Delaney was grateful to be alive but the things he saw and dealt with on the streets would remain with him forever.

Delaney served as a State Trooper for another decade before becoming a referee for high school basketball games. Eventually he worked his way up, officiating his first NBA game in 1987 at Madison Square Garden. For 25 years Delaney officiated all of the biggest games of the NBA from All Star games to Finals, walking the court alongside the likes of Magic Johnson, Michael Jordan and LeBron James. His last game as a

referee was in Orlando in 2011. Delaney's family was present for both his first and last game ever; he said they are the most memorable from his time with the NBA.

Before his career as a referee really took off, Delaney returned to Jersey City State

// Basketball was my therapy.

College where he graduated in 1985. He believes that coming back to school was beneficial to him. "I learned layers of education in and out of the classroom on that campus that would be very helpful later on in my life."

While back at school,

he said was also diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) by professor Henry Campbell. Having an explanation for what he was going through was helpful for Delaney who, in the decades since, has travelled the world and worked extensively to

help survivors of PTSD. One thing he tells people who have experienced trauma in their life is to "find what gives you peace and balance." Delaney found just that as a referee. "Basketball was my therapy. I felt comfortable on the court because there were rules

and boundaries. When I was undercover there were few rules and boundaries."

Delaney's hope "is for people to understand that post trauma experiences are a human condition - not a mental illness." He speaks about his experience with PTSD in a way he feels others can relate to. He continues to travel with Delaney Consultants, giving motivational speeches and talks.

Now 66, Delaney has completely moved on from being a referee for the NBA to speaking to PTSD survivors and their families. He doesn't think of it as retiring however, asserting that "retiring is not a word I like to use. We transition and now I'm transitioning to a new chapter in my life."

How Michael Krivicka Went **Viral**

Kristen Hazzard
Reporter

Michael Krivicka is an NJCU alum that graduated in 2000. Krivicka was born in Slovakia to Jozef and Frantiska Krivicka in 1976. He spent the summer of 1998 visiting a number of schools in and around the New York metro area. He says NJCU ended up being the perfect choice for him because it was affordable and still close enough to NYC. Tom Gannon, head of the Media Arts Department at the time, became Krivicka's deciding factor for attending NJCU. Gannon introduced him to the department and staff and also became a mentor throughout

Krivicka's college career. He enjoyed his time at NJCU because the school became a new home for him and he also made friends with professors and students. He received his Bachelor's degree in Media Arts. Krivicka wanted to become a film director at the time and drew inspiration from the independent film scene during the late 1990's. He wanted to be that guy behind the camera that created "cool sh*t" people enjoy watching.

Krivicka's big break was when he made short films while at NJCU. He sent his videos to numerous festivals. In 2009, four years after the creation of Youtube, he created his first viral video called "Nude It". It was a one-take recording of a

revolutionary iPhone app demo that allowed the user to see people naked. The video blew up online and even received news coverage.

He went on to spend 10 years working as a video editor for various post-production houses in NYC. Having that job built up the skills he needed to be an editor and eventually start his own agency in 2011. Thinkmodo, a viral marketing agency, was co-founded by Krivicka and his business partner James L. Percelay. Krivicka now directs videos for his clients and he edits the videos in his head as he is shooting them.

What makes him continue to pursue his career is that he loves what he does. He has

realized what he is good at and what he "sucks at." The most satisfying part for him is seeing a video go viral. He monitors the likes, shares, comments, and headlines of the videos he creates. His advice to fellow art and media students is find out what you are good at, not what you "want to do".

Krivicka is currently married to his wife Nadia and has three little kids while still creating buzzworthy videos for the masses. Thinkmodo has worked with companies like Warner Brothers Pictures, Sony Pictures, Verizon, and 20th Century Fox. Many of their video campaigns have garnered millions of views on Youtube alone.

Christopher Mineses on Navigating the Design World



Courtesy of Christopher Mineses

Katherine Reyes
Reporter

Christopher Mineses is an NJCU alumni from the class of 2014, he graduated with a BFA in fine arts. He currently works as a freelance artist, but previously worked at Mashable,

a multi-platform entertainment company, as a full time graphic designer. Mineses says, “I did work for both the editorial department creating custom graphics to go along with editorial pieces and the branded content department where I got the chance to work with

various big name companies creating sponsored content for the Mashable website.” He describes how scary it was when he started his college career here in NJCU, “My first memory was starting my first design courses. I was totally clueless and intimidated

coming in as a freshman and not knowing as much as I thought I should.”

Mineses enjoyed his time at NJCU, and says that having a mentor or advisor to speak to was really helpful and notes Professor Ellen Quinn as his own mentor. “You go through so many emotions as a college student, it's a good pressure relief to have someone in your corner who you can share your thoughts with and turn to when you need guidance.”

It is normal for an artist to feel discouraged if their client or audience is unsatisfied with their work but Mineses advises students in the same field as him to grasp their style early on and understand clients. He suggests that students “learn how to be able to adapt your style and cater to what different clients are looking for... Those

expectations don't always meet your personal style so you kind of have to be able to find a happy medium between your personal style and keeping the client happy.”

Mineses worked at Mashable for three and half years before he started his freelance career. He definitely feels that NJCU has prepared him for his career and the fast paced work environment. “Yes, NJCU played a big part in preparing me for the next level. The work I was doing at NJCU was very similar to what I do now so I wasn't caught by surprise, workload and expectation wise.” Mineses believes that his experience at NJCU equipped him with the right skills to work as a graphic artist and trained him to be a professional.

From Hobby Writer to Google Employee

Erik S. Ordyeke
Sports Editor

His passion for writing about music culminated into a job at Google, but how did he get there? For Steven Rodas, writing had always been a key part of his life, specifically writing about music. The decision to kickstart what would become a career in writing did not come until he transferred to NJCU in his sophomore year, however. Rodas began his time

in college by attending Rutgers-Newark for one year, but then decided to transfer. NJCU had more opportunities for him and was more commuter friendly based on its location. That decision to transfer, in hindsight, would become an important crossroads in his life when he became a writer for The Gothic Times.

Regarding his reason for joining the student newspaper and how it impacted him, Rodas said “I joined the newspaper because as a sophomore, I

thought it was it a good time to begin to build my portfolio. The Gothic Times taught me practical skills like short-hand for note taking, how to interview people and develop sources, as well as how to gather and organize research.” Over time, these skills allowed him to get internships at media outlets such as the Jersey Journal and FOX 5 NYC. Rodas even acquired an internship at the ABC 7 Investigative Unit Department. All of this because he decided to get involved on

campus by utilizing his hobby of writing about music for the newspaper.

When speaking about his time at ABC 7, Steven stated that “at ABC's Investigative Department...I helped well-known local reporter Jim Hoffer delve into insurance, crime, and government-related stories. I fielded calls by concerned

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Courtesy of Jessica Guengue

residents, and transcribed interviews with sources to highlight quotes that would eventually be used during live broadcasts.” He mentioned that these tasks he had at ABC 7 were similar to those at The Gothic Times, except that they were on a larger scale. Nonetheless, the skills he picked up during his time at NJCU allowed for the seamless transition into these types of internships and the buildup of his portfolio – what he had sought to develop in his sophomore year.

Later, he received a call from Vaco, a contractor that helps in hiring candidates for jobs at Google. They saw Rodas’ portfolio on LinkedIn and asked him to come to an interview at their headquarters. At first, he couldn’t believe it. Even when he got to the Google headquarters – he found everything about it to be surreal. Being interviewed by the tech giant in their own headquarters was a bit unfathomable for him but the skills Rodas had learned

through journalism and from past internships allowed him to get to that point and succeed.

Steven Rodas graduated Magna Cum Laude from NJCU in 2015 with a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism, and he still works for Google today. His job there began with writing editorials and headlines for top searches, but now consists mainly of helping in crises by sending out SOS alerts through Google for disasters such as hurricanes Harvey and Irma, the California wildfires, and more global alerts that are sent out 24/7. Steven made it clear that, without NJCU and the guidance of some professors here, he would not have the personality and work ethic that defines his character today. Steven’s time at NJCU, The Gothic Times and his internships gave him the worldview from a journalist’s perspective that he described specifically as “a responsibility I believe journalists have to their community.”

From The Office of Alumni Relations

NJCU has nearly 50,000 alumni. For updates on programs, events and special services for alumni, contact: alumni@njcu.edu or visit www.njcu.edu/alumni. You can also find information on the NJCU Alumni Facebook page, on Twitter (@NJCUUniversity) and on Instagram (#NJCUUniversity).

Alumni help NJCU grow and prosper by hosting events, reaching out to current and prospective students and serving as mentors on and around campus.

Benefits for Alumni

With the NJCU Alumni Card, they can take advantage of the Congressman Frank J. Guarini Library and the J.Moore Athletics and Fitness Center and much more.

Reunions

Alumni observing their 50th Anniversary become members of the Golden Gothic, a distinguished group of guests also honored at the University’s annual commencement ceremony. Any alumni celebrating milestone anniversaries are recognized at reunion events.



Dillon Feldman's Leap From NJCU's Stage



Madaí García
Reporter

Courtesy of Dillon Feldman

Dillon Feldman, a graduate from NJCU's Musical Theatre Program class of 2016, is currently working on a year-long contract at Florida Repertory Theater in Fort Myers, FL. Originally from Sparta, NJ, Feldman decided to change his intended major from medicine, the major he had originally chosen as a means of "pacifying his family" to musical theater during the end of his junior year in high school. "I chose NJCU first and foremost because of my professor, Marc Dalio—I knew how he worked and that I could expect a high quality of education from him." Feldman met professor of Voice and

coordinator of Musical Theatre Studies Marc Dalio through a show that Feldman student

“My hometown was such a bubble and NJCU was like real life.

directed at his local middle school which Dalio's son was part of. Along with Dalio's level of passion, Feldman also looked forward to NJCU's diversity.

“What I'm thankful for is the diversity, the passion and the talent I was surrounded by. In a really profound way, it

was insanely cool to sing with some of the most beautiful voices I've ever known, and to find they were all from different backgrounds than my own. My hometown was such a bubble and NJCU was like real life. NJCU was a huge part of developing my political consciousness as well as my personal identity and strength as a performer and human.”

Despite occasionally feeling frustrated with the lack of auxiliary opportunities for performers and the limited amount of productions put on per semester, in comparison to other schools with larger and more established programs, Feldman had opportunities as a new actor that he might not have had anywhere else. “I was somewhere where quality theater was being produced out of a group of (at most times) less than 40 students—which is such a rare find.” Unfortunately, lack of adequate financial

work in the real world and have people hear about my school for the first time. I know several of my peers are making similar paths and that's presumably how a theater program gets its name over time.”

Since graduating, Feldman has worked in small films, arrangement projects, and has done some freelance composition. Come May he plans on trying to book Summer projects, admitting that “one of the fun and simultaneously terrifying things about this profession is [he] can't really plan too far ahead.” To calm his nerves before a production, he'll listen to music that isn't part of the show or use lavender hand lotion, a trick he learned from a friend in high school. Feldman was kind enough to provide words of advice to all current NJCU MDT majors. “You need to find what makes you unique to everybody else in your personality, in your skill set and in your behavior and utilize the hell out of it. I mean, I'm only a year out of graduation and I consistently find that the opportunities I'm receiving come from me unapologetically being me.

support for the Music Dance Theatre Department limited the ability for the faculty to expand. However, the program and its alumni continue to gain more and more recognition. “The music majors continue to do wonderful work. And I think it's kind of exciting being able to do

But also, never be late, always be professional, always be kind and always be prepared. I have now seen the actual ramifications of failing to do these things in the world of regional theater from other people and it just doesn't get you very far, in my opinion.”

Popcorn At The Ready:

A Roundup of Movies You Should be Excited For

Emmanuel Lebron
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Black Panther (February 16)



Chadwick Boseman will be donning the sleek vibranium suit as T'Challa in Black Panther.

In 1966, the Black Panther burst into popular consciousness as the first mainstream comic-book superhero of African descent. And now he's the first black character to get a stand-alone feature within the Marvel Cinematic Universe — one specifically intended to launch a new blockbuster franchise. Directed by Ryan Coogler, the film stars Chadwick Boseman as T'Challa, king and protector of the fictional African nation of Wakanda who also happens to be known for leaping into combat wearing Vibranium-

enhanced sacred armor. He faces off against Michael B. Jordan as Erik Killmonger, an exiled prince turned buff supervillain whose bad blood with Black Panther threatens to drag Wakanda into a world war.

Red Sparrow (March 2)

Remember how everyone really wanted a Black Widow solo movie? Well we seem to be getting one, kind of. Jennifer Lawrence plays a Russian ballerina turned lethal spy seductress in this hard, R-rated espionage thriller from director Francis Lawrence (who also directed J.Law in the last three Hunger Games installments). It's a real monkey's paw wish scenario, depending on whether or not you would prefer to see Jennifer Lawrence beat people up to Scarlett Johansson.

A Wrinkle in Time (March 9)

After a book series and a terrible made-for-TV adaptation, finally comes this big-budget Madeleine L'Engle adaptation, which follows a young girl (Storm Reid) searching for her lost father (Chris Pine) in a time, space and mind-bending journey through the universe. Oprah Winfrey, Mindy Kaling, and Reese Witherspoon play her trio of whimsical magical guardians, all of whom should inspire some amazing

cosplays someday.



Oprah Winfrey as Mrs. Which in Ava DuVernay's A Wrinkle in Time.

READY PLAYER ONE (March 30)

80's songs! "Back to the Future!" and "Overwatch!" I think I even saw "Chucky" in the last trailer. Everything you've ever liked or had a passing knowledge of is in this movie. Director Steven Spielberg's effects-heavy adaptation of Ernest Cline's sci-fi novel, "READY PLAYER ONE," is going to be a bizarre explosion of pop-culture. Set in a dystopian future where humankind has found refuge in a virtual reality simulator known as the Oasis. Established by a billionaire tech visionary, the world learns after his death that he's hidden several "Easter eggs" within the system. Whoever finds them is promised control over the corporation that runs the Oasis, as well as the creator's vast fortune. Enter quippy teen, Wade Watts (Tye Sheridan), who ventures into this digital world of comic book characters, old movies, and cheesy pop tunes in an attempt to find the Easter eggs and eventually own it all. Which proves what I've been saying for years; Gamers and nerd-culture junkies are not only valuable members of society, they might just save the world.

Incredibles 2 (June)

It has been over a decade since we watched the Parr family save the world from Syndrome, but the recently announced sequel will take place immediately after the first "Incredibles" movie. Rather than have Bob Parr, a.k.a. Mr. Incredible, be the leading superhero again, "The Incredibles 2" will see him staying at home to take care of Jack-Jack while Helen Parr, a.k.a. Elastigirl, will be the one out in the field fighting crime. Most of the main cast from "The Incredibles" are reprising their respective roles.

Jon Snow and the Wildlings: A Lesson in Acceptance of All Peoples

Jeffrey Villapiano

Reporter

Blood! Gore! Sex! Fire breathing dragons! These are among the many exciting elements of HBO's Game of Thrones series that tap into the primal beast inside each of us.

But beyond this superficial layer lies a much more profound commentary on human nature and the essence of leadership. And it can be found in the series' central and most celebrated character: Jon Snow.

Snow is now recognized as both the elected ruler of the northern region of the land in which the show takes place and the rightful heir to the most coveted seat in all the land, the Iron Throne. Because of this, it is no wonder that Thrones devotees throughout the world bow down before him in fandom. However, behind his current position of great authority lies an underdog quality initially in which Snow was able to overcome every obstacle put before him until he flourished into the royalty fans see before them today.

Of all the trials and tribulations thrown at the young Snow, his first major task forces him to think about the discrimination he faced for the entirety of his childhood for being the illegitimate child of Eddard Stark. While people in the "civilized" north despise the people known as Wildlings, Snow will become allies with them.

Dispatched to become a brother of a military detail

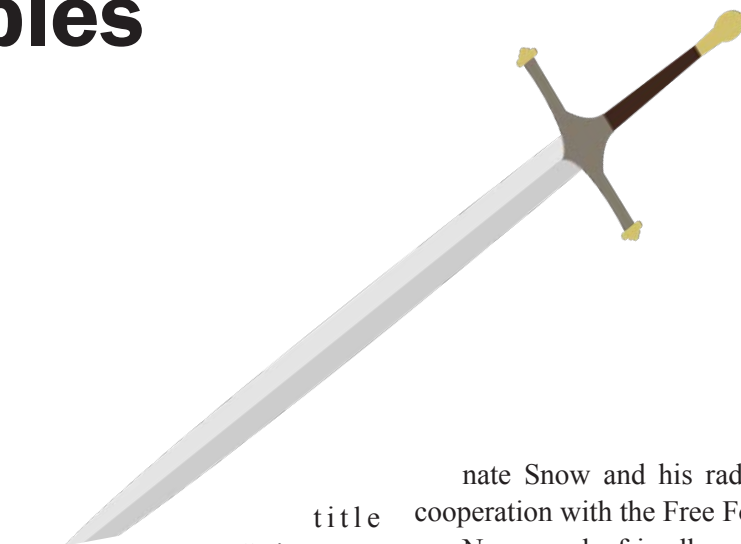
known as the Night's Watch, Snow is trained to view the Wildlings as his primary enemy. The Night's Watch is posted at an enormous fortress made of ice referred to as "The Wall" designed to divide the "claimed" world from which Jon hails and the off-the-grid lands to the north. Named after both the wild, unconquered lands that they occupy as well as their free-spirited culture, the Wildlings—sometimes called "Free Folk"—invariably launch attacks on The Wall and the Night's Watch as part of a seemingly never-ending war between the two sides.

Beyond the Wall

On a mission to reconcile reports of the sudden disappearance of Wildling people and to find his uncle, Jon finds in these unclaimed lands love and alliance, two things no Night's Watch member would ever think they'd find in Wildling territory.

Ambushed and taken prisoner by Wildlings, the alliance begins when Snow meets the most powerful, if not also the most controversial, leader of the Free Folk, Mance Rayder.

Once a Night's Watch brother himself, Rayder established alliances with important lords, clans, and tribes throughout Wildling lands, disposing of his enemies, and bringing all Wildling peoples under his command. As such, he earns the



title

"King Beyond The Wall."

Meanwhile, an army comprised of undead soldiers, the White Walkers, come along with the approaching winter. As its warriors kill more and more men, their victims are resurrected as emaciated, frostbitten zombies. But recruitment for their wicked cause does not stop at humans. For in the penultimate chapter of the most recent season the army's leader, the Night King, struck down a dragon with a hurl of an ice spear and later revived the creature as a servant of his odious bidding with a touch on its head.

As if Jon's commitment to the Wildlings hadn't already been apparent, he makes the ultimate sacrifice for them: his own life. Snow returns to the Wall with an army of thousands of Wildlings, gaining more clans as allies. Yet 5,000 Wildlings crossing into the Night's Watch's fort is all the former Lord Commander Alliser Thorne can take. Thorne and a group of Snow's greatest enemies formulate a plot to elimi-

nate Snow and his radical cooperation with the Free Folk.

Now nearly friendless and having enraged many of his brothers, Snow is stabbed multiple times by Thorne and a group of other men. Yet Snow is resurrected by a magical priestess. Having received the ultimate punishment of conspiracy and death, Snow realizes it wouldn't make sense to stay among the Night's Watch if he is to continue his plan to integrate the Free Folk into his army. Ordering the deaths of each of those who betrayed him as his last order as Lord Commander, Snow gives up his title to his trusted friend and Night's Watch brother Edd.

It is at this point that Snow's death due to his concern for the Wildlings pays dividends, as it is Tormund, a Free Folk leader, who makes it clear that Snow died for the Wildlings, and that if they "are not willing to do the same for him, we're cowards." Even though the resistance to join Snow is born out of the fact that the Wildlings are losing

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numbers quickly and are facing extinction, Tormund continues, “if [cowards are] who we are, we deserve to be the last of the Free Folk.”

A New Order

At this point, you might be asking yourself: why did all of Jon’s efforts to help the Wildlings and treat them as equals matter? After all, Jon himself was convinced that even with all of them on his side it would not be enough to stop the Walkers. Was all that trouble—going so far as dying for these people—really worth it?

The answer to this comes to light when Snow finally stands as the new supreme ruler of all the North. House after House ultimately pledges loyalty to Snow as leader of a “new order,” as Snow calls it, including “the Free Folk, the Northerners, and the Knights of the Vale,” in perhaps the show’s most famous “King in the North” scene.

Snow argues that, as his father once said, “we find our true friends on the battlefield,” and being that the North fought alongside the Vale and the Free Folk bravely and successfully, a true union among the three factions can be established. It is Jon’s lack of discrimination and fair mindedness that has earned him loyalty.

What is Leadership?

But does this story of one man who broke the barrier between Free Folk and those north of the Wall carry any meaning beyond the military practicality within the context of the story? What does it say about human potential and the discarding of histories of bad blood for the sake of a greater, common good?

Ask yourself: wouldn’t you want a leader who thinks not in terms of in-groups and out-groups? Who looks beyond a past that anchors the present, limiting what can be done about the future if we are to stay rooted by such ill-will built up over countless generations?

Look at the state of our country today: despite divides amongst people based on every possible line imaginable—black vs. white, Democrat vs. Republican—our world, just like Westeros, has its own White Walkers, and Winter is surely coming for everyone, regardless of which side of any “Wall” you’re on.

For us, events that have remained a problem as well as very recent occurrences represent the “army of the un-

dead” that we must face. For one, we have been grappling with the problem of unemployment of American workers as jobs have been both pharmed out to foreign labor and given to illegal workers entering the country. Additionally and in conjunction with this lack of employment that has begets lack of affordability, countless youths enter insurmountable college debt. This prevents them from moving out of their parents’ homes and affording what we are brought up to believe as key parts of the American Dream such as buying a car and starting a family.

The list goes on and on concerning all the White Walkers that the real world faces, and it doesn’t take a world affairs aficionado to realize that the world has problems. But perhaps the next time you encounter a problem, be it personal or global

in scope, realize the futility of trying to solve such a problem by remaining in your comfort zone. The sad truth is that many people will realize a problem that exists, but when they are approached with an alternative solution, trying it is completely out of the question. How illogical is that? How is that supposed to solve anything?

As a leader at every possible turn, Jon Snow knew that to solve a problem that everyone is involved in and is affected by, it would require all hands on deck, or as many as he could possibly find. As far as a president, congressman, or any position of power, that is the kind of leader we all need and should think about electing. For when it comes to problems of economics and the environment, just to name a few, when everyone is affected by the outcome of a dilemma, everyone should be included in solving it and benefit from that solution.

Editor’s Note: HBO has said Game of Thrones will return in 2019.



How Veronica Garcia Helps Students SOAR

Michi Suazo
News Editor

Veronica Garcia is the manager of SOAR (Student Outreach and Retention), a resource center dedicated to helping students transition into college. She received her Bachelor's in Criminal Justice in 2011 and her Master's in 2013. With her major as Criminal Justice she wanted to be a police officer but she found her passion of helping students.

Garcia originally went to Rutgers-Newark but took trips to NJCU to see her twin sister play basketball for the university. Garcia said she found herself a genuine and better sense of community at NJCU compared to Rutgers. She said she wouldn't know about NJCU if it wasn't for her sister.

Garcia started as a student worker, then a student ambassador and then a secretary at Admissions in Hepburn Hall. The SOAR office opened and she applied and later got the position as manager.

She says, "The hardest thing to do with this job is hearing students' stories. They're going through so much. Our students are different. Many are working and still live at home while going to class. I tell our peer mentors to be friends with freshmen. One of the key components is for students to make them understand how to finance their education. I genuinely think that the university is investing in students in the best way possible. If it wasn't for Sue Henderson the SOAR office wouldn't exist. So if any students need help, come to SOAR."

NJCU Women's Basketball Coach Suspended After Fight

Monica Sarmiento
Editor-in-Chief

In December, a fight broke out on the NJCU court during a basketball game between York College. According to a press release sent from President Sue Henderson "student-athletes from both schools engaged in a skirmish on the court with under a minute to go in the game."

Another incident occurred outside of the John J. Moore Athletics & Fitness Center when York College students were waiting to board their bus. A police report from that night states that four women sustained minor

injuries. The report also says that Robyn Burton, the NJCU coach, was accused of attacking a York College player and biting their finger. Burton was hired at NJCU in August 2015.

"While the NCAA did not impose sanctions on the team, the University instituted a full-team suspension of upcoming games in the short term, and has terminated the head coach," said Henderson in the December press release. An ongoing investigation into the members of the women's basketball program is being conducted by Vice President for Student Affairs and the Dean of Students.

Long Time Staff Members Retire

Juan E. Arroyo worked with NJCU's Career Planning & Placement Office Center since 1986. He served as a cooperative education and career counselor, responsible for building relationships between the university and area employers to satisfy mutual staffing and recruitment needs. He earned his MA in Counseling at NJCU. Before returning to NJCU he worked as Assistant Director of Admissions and head tennis coach at Ramapo College of New Jersey, where he also earned his BA in Metropolitan Studies. He was inducted to Ramapo College's Hall of Fame in 2005 and 2008.



Alice DeFazio's 27-year-long career at NJCU included 14 years as head women's basketball coach and 11 as the fourth athletics director in the university's history. She was also senior women's administrator, assistant director of athletics and associate director of athletics. DeFazio most notably introduced the Athletic Academic Retention Program (AARP) as the director of athletics.

She has a BA in English and earned her Masters in Sports Management in 2010 and is a member of the Jersey City Sports Hall of Fame, the Hudson County Sports



Hall of Fame, and Montclair State University's Athletic Hall of Fame.

Upcoming Events at NJCU

January



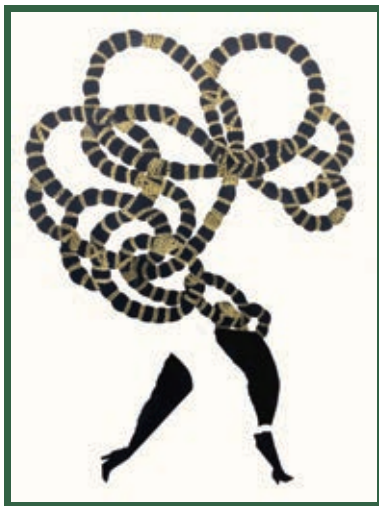
Joyce Yu-Jean Lee
On The Brink

Courtesy of NJCU Galleries

25 - *State of the Disunion: Joyce Yu-Jean Lee*
Opening Reception: 1/25, 5 PM
Artist Talk: 2/13, 7 PM
Visual Arts Gallery (Ends March 1)

30 - *NJCU Writers Workshop Spring Meeting*
Karnoutsos 302, 7 PM - 9 PM

February



Shoshanna Weinberger,
Running with Severed Conditions

Courtesy of NJCU Galleries



Julija Sukys, author
of *Siberian Exile*.

Photo by
Shane Epping

22 - *Julija Sukys: Siberian Exile*
GSUB 129, 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

27 - *Black Women Writers and Artists*
Lemmerman Gallery, 6 PM - 8 PM

1 - *The Otherness of Strangefruit: Shoshanna Weinberger*
Opening Reception: 2/1, 5 PM
Black Women Artists &
Writers Panel Discussion: 2/27, 6 PM
Lemmerman Gallery (Ends March 15)

6 - *Fourth Annual 100-Word Reading Marathon*
GSUB 129, 6:30 PM - 9 PM

10 - *Black Maria 37th Annual Film Festival Premiere*
Hoboken Historical Museum, 7 PM
(\$10 donation at the door)
Visit blackmariafestival.org for info about screenings.

11 - *In Real Time: Sodam Jeon, soprano,*
with Henry Sungho Yang, piano
Ingalls Recital Hall, 3 PM (FREE with RSVP)

21 - *Hair We Are Again*
GSUB MPR A, 2 PM - 4 PM



Judith Jamison

Courtesy of
Ellen Wayman-Gordon

28 - *Keynote Speaker: Judith Jamison*
Skyline Room, NJCU School of Business,
7 PM (FREE with RSVP)

Guarini Library

Mon - Thurs ... 7:30am to 10pm
 Fri 7:30am to 5pm
 Sat 9am to 5pm
 Sun 11am to 5pm

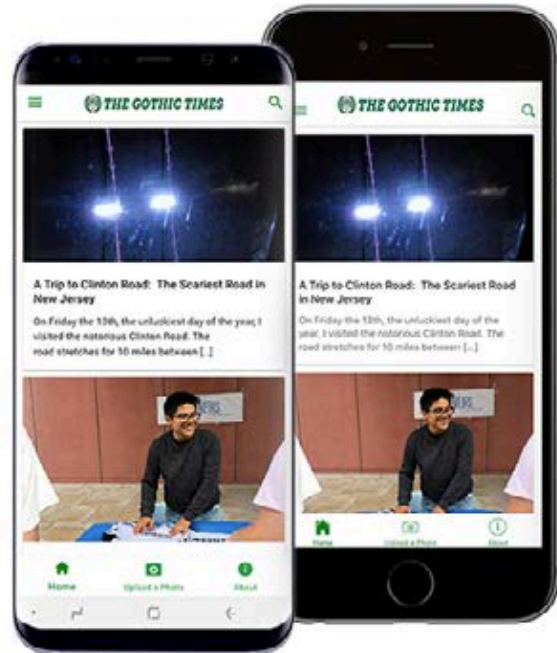
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