



# THE GOTHIC TIMES

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## Counseling Center: the highest wait list in NJCU history

by **Kenise Brown** | News Editor

The counseling center on campus has nearly 90 students waiting to see therapists— the longest wait list in the school's history. NJCU offers free counseling for students who need support and wait lists have been an issue in the past. This fall, the center had already begun a wait list by the third day of classes.

The center currently has three counselors working in the office. Last year there were four. The Director of Counseling and Wellness Services, Abisola Gallagher said that it is still not enough. "We are supposed to have a certain amount of counselors based on the amount of students attending the university. We are supposed to have like, five and a half counselors."

The Gothic Times reached out to Jimmy Jung, vice president for Student Affairs, who consulted with the Dean of Students, Dr. Lyn Hamlin. In an email interview, Jung said, "The

fourth counselor at the center left in June and the administration has since been in the process of hiring a licensed therapist, who can also deal with alcohol and other drug issues, homelessness, and food insecurity." Jung said that early in the spring semester, "we will have consultants assess and evaluate our mental health and wellness model. We expect that some useful long-term recommendations will be provided."

As for when the Counseling Center can expect new hires, Jung said, "We are in the process of checking references for the finalists for [a] new therapist and in the final approval stage for part-time counselors."

"A demand for counseling and on campus mental health resources for students has increased in universities around the U.S." Jung noted, "Using the data provided by the NJCU counseling center, student demand for services

has been consistent up until this year, when demand drastically increased."

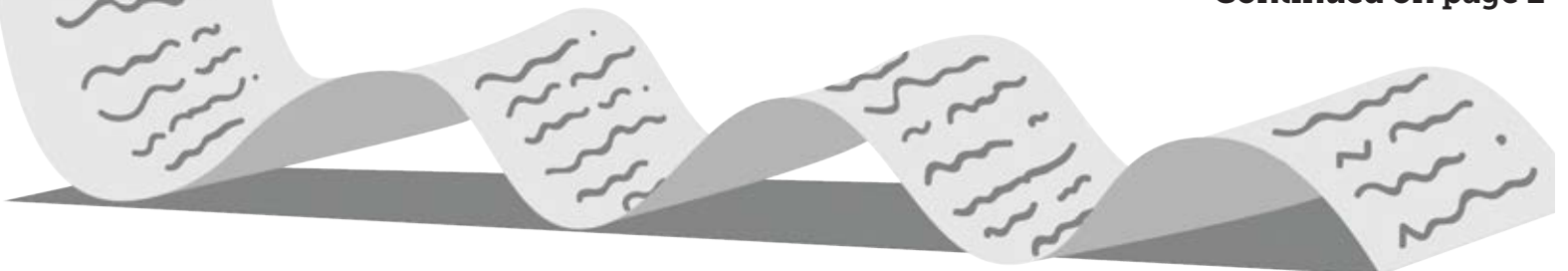
A survey conducted by the Association for University and College Counseling Center Directors (AUCCCD) reported that most counseling centers are increasing their hires. The survey, taken by 621 colleges, including NJCU, says "35.3% of centers gained staff positions. Counseling centers continue to gain staff member FTE [Full-Time Equivalent] at a higher level than those losing staff."

### Short-Term Solutions

According to Jung, current short-term solutions that the Counseling Center has in place to address the nearly 90 student wait list include a "While You Are Waiting" email sent to students immediately after they are placed on the wait list. It is "composed of a list of self-care options students are encouraged to use while

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Wait  
List



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waiting for an appointment;" initial appointments to provide immediate support to students; and referrals to off-campus clinics or organizations are offered.

Gallagher says the center offers appointments that focus on an immediate solution for students who may not need long-term counseling sessions. "We provide consult appointments which are one time appointments that are solution focused to support students to quickly resolve problems."

Once a student does manage to get an appointment, NJCU only offers 12 sessions per academic year. However, according to the AUCCCD survey, over 55 percent of counseling centers do not have a session limit.

## Wait Lists: Across the U.S.

According to the International Association of Counseling Services (IACS), if there is a wait list "Students may choose to not seek counseling at the counseling center. Also, students who are put on a wait list are more likely to leave the university." Online information from IACS goes on to say, "A study by Wilson, Mason, and Ewing (1997) in the Journal of Counseling Psychology found that attrition rates increased by 14 percent for those students who were put on a wait list compared to those who received timely counseling." The AUCCCD survey reported that 65.2 percent of students that were asked about their counseling centers said that counseling helped them stay in school.

In 213 schools, any student, including those on the wait list, had to wait an average of six days for their first appointment at the center. However, in 78 schools, those on the wait list had to wait an

of the Center for Counseling Practice, Policy and Research of the American Counseling Association said there are ideas for colleges to improve this situation.

"One of the ways in which colleges can better

**"Your health is first. That degree won't mean anything if you're dead." - Aleishka Ferrer**

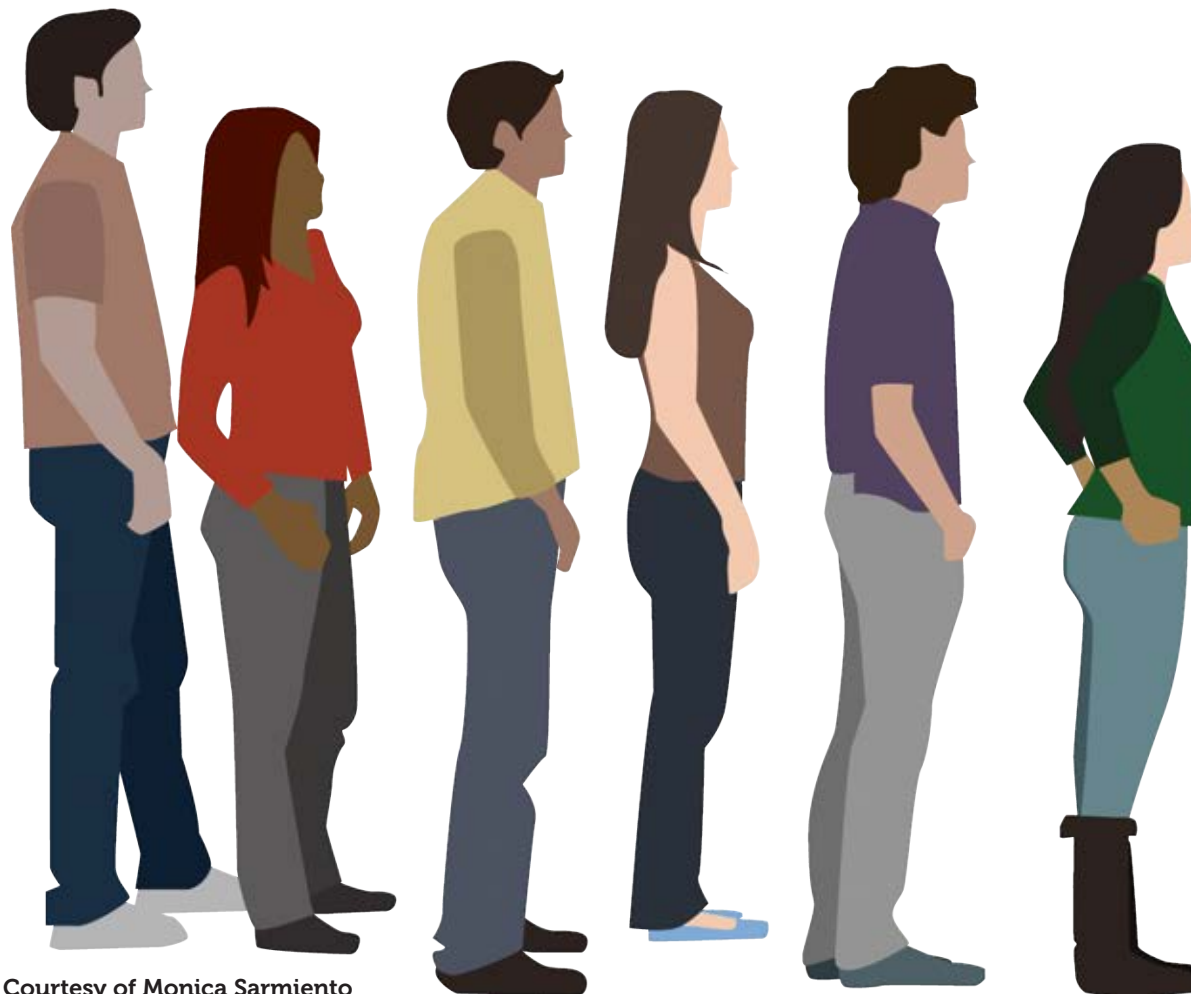
average of 17 days for their first appointment. Last year, NJCU students had to wait for an average of 33.5 days before they were able to see a counselor.

## Looking Ahead

In an email interview, Lynn Linde, senior director

manage providing adequate and appropriate mental health services for students is by first assessing the needs for services among their student body. While we know that the number of students with mental health needs is increasing, the needs are probably not uniform across all campuses. Additionally, there are different types of needs, and some students may need more services and for a longer period of time than other students. Colleges need to determine what services are currently available, what the need is, and then what additional assistance is needed. It may be more counselors, but there may also be a need for interventional programs such as stress reduction, relationship issues, self-care, etc."

A graduate student, Zhane Malone, from Peers Educating Peers Program (P.E.P.) who is majoring in counseling, says the program is willing to help other students with mental health. "Us as students should have an action plan to help these students since it is not in our power to hire another counselor," Malone said.



Courtesy of Monica Sarmiento

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Giselle Nunez, a student majoring in Early-Child Education says mental health is important. "With only three therapists, it should be their main priority. They should hire more counselors. [Students] need someone to talk to, to be there for them in their time of need."

Aleishka Ferrer, a major in Math, said students who are attending the center and are on the waitlist should let their voices be heard. "Get a petition, and send it to the

board. If they are not listening or doing anything to hire more staff then take it [to] someone who is higher, like the governor. Your health is first. That degree won't mean anything if you're dead. If the school is not doing their job, look for someone higher to do it. Mental health is serious and it should not take long for someone to help."

Gallagher said despite the wait list, the center will continue to make sure all students that come to the center leaves content. "We do the best we can. We all work hard to make every student who come to this center happy."

***Do you have an experience with the Counseling Center wait list? The Gothic Times wants to hear from you. Email Kenise Brown, News Editor, at [kbrown8@njcu.edu](mailto:kbrown8@njcu.edu) or Monica Sarmiento, Editor-in-Chief, at [msarmiento2@njcu.edu](mailto:msarmiento2@njcu.edu).***

## Resources

If you or a loved one are struggling with mental health issues please use the follow resources to seek professional help.

### NJCU Counseling Center

GSUB Room 308 | 201-200-3165

Mon-Thurs 8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Fri 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

After Hours Crisis: 201-200-3128 for Public Safety  
or call 911 from off-campus

### Bridgeway Crisis Intervention Services

152 Central Ave., Jersey City | 201-855-2539

Mon-Fri 9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Sat-Sun 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

### Hudson County Mental Health Crisis Hotline

201-433-6161, 24 hrs. a day

### National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

800-273-8255, 24 hrs. a day

### National Hopeline Network

800-442-4673, 24 hrs. a day

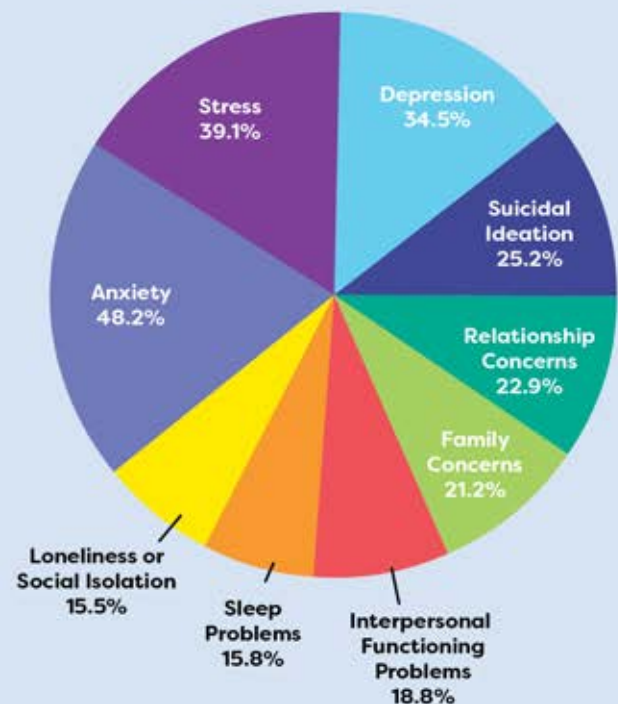
## The Current State of Counseling Centers

The Association for University and College Counseling Center Directors (AUCCCD), is an international organization composed of colleges and universities around the world, including the U.S. Their mission is to be educational leaders on mental health for students. This annual survey is used "as a means to increase the objective understanding of factors critical to the functioning of college and university counseling centers."

### Counseling services have a positive impact on:

- **Academics**, as measured by student self report: 66.8 percent of clients stated that counseling services helped with their academic performance.
- **Retention**, as measured by student self report: 65.2 percent of clients stated that counseling services helped them stay in school.

### Anxiety continues to be the most frequent concern among college students.



### 35.3 percent of centers gained staff positions, while only 7.4 percent lost staff positions.

- Counseling centers continue to gain full-time staff members at a much higher level than those losing staff.

The average wait for all clients for a first appointment was 6.7 business days.

68 percent of centers reported that they did not have a waitlist. For centers that do have a waitlist, the average wait for a first appointment for clients was 17.3 business days.

# Administration weighs in on the wait list

**In an email interview, the Gothic Times reached out to Dr. Jimmy Jung, vice president of Student Affairs, and Dr. Lyn Hamlin, dean of students, in regards to the university's plans to address the wait list and growing mental health issues on campus.**

**What are the long-term solutions NJCU is looking at to deal with the fact that there are more than 80 students on the wait list?**

We are currently in the process of hiring a licensed therapist, who can also deal with alcohol and other drug issues, homelessness, and food insecurity. We have begun the process of hiring two part-time counselors that will provide relief for the Counseling Center wait list. We are working closely with professors of the Counseling Department, Dr. Yumiko Ogawa and Dr. Vaibhavee Agaskar. Together they are supervising approximately eight counseling students who are helping collect data for us, they will be working with us for drop-in counseling hours and will be assisting with group sessions for a variety of topics. In addition, early in spring semester we will have consultants assess and evaluate our mental health and wellness model. We expect that some useful long-term recommendations will be provided.

**According to the survey reported by Association for University and College Counseling Center Directors, many schools are gaining new therapists and not losing them. Why are we not gaining new therapists?**

We are surveying the entire student population to determine and anticipate the

long-term mental health needs for our community. Once the assessment of the center is complete, we hope to provide additional and improved services that will meet the specific needs of the students.

**The Gothic Times heard about plans of a Community Center that will be established. What would be offered at the center? When would the center open? Where would the center be located?**

The NJCU Community Center's mission is to create a model of support and resources in a stigma-free welcoming environment through a lens of equity and inclusion.

Specifically, the community center aims to have:

- Drop in Food Provisions consistent with campus-based food pantries
- Weekend Back Pack program
- Resource Services Tables operated by student volunteers
- A schedule of volunteers tabling on a drop by basis
- Community Engaged Learning Courses devoted to researching a scaled-up version of the community center in year two through four, including a working kitchen, community garden, drop in childcare, health screening, and supports for undocumented students.

The center is already underway, we are designating temporary space within GSUB and there is a formal university-wide committee working on this. The weekend backpack program

has already started and the first major event for the Center was held in November.

**Would Graduate NJCU counseling students be involved with the center? Would they be supervised by faculty? If they are involved, how many Graduate NJCU counseling students will be there? What is the goal for the center for students now, and in the future?**

Yes, the graduate counseling program is instrumental in our partnership.

We are working closely with professors of the Counseling Department, Dr. Yumiko Ogawa and Dr. Vaibhavee Agaskar. Together they are supervising approximately eight counseling students who are helping collect data for us, they will be working with us for drop-in counseling hours and will be assisting with group sessions for a variety of topics.

**Guarini Library Presents**

**REFWORKS**


**BASICS WORKSHOP**

Here to help you create citations and bibliographies for your papers in APA, MLA, and University of Chicago.

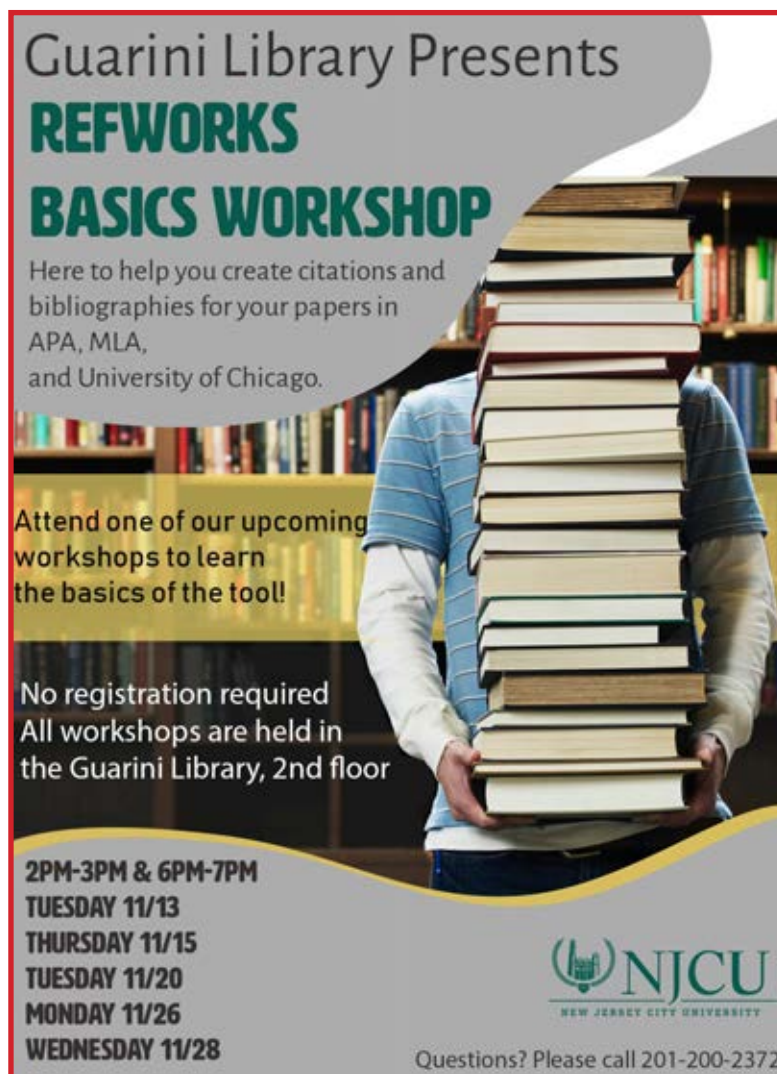
Attend one of our upcoming workshops to learn the basics of the tool!

No registration required  
All workshops are held in the Guarini Library, 2nd floor

**2PM-3PM & 6PM-7PM**  
**TUESDAY 11/13**  
**THURSDAY 11/15**  
**TUESDAY 11/20**  
**MONDAY 11/26**  
**WEDNESDAY 11/28**

 **NJCU**  
NEW JERSEY CITY UNIVERSITY

Questions? Please call 201-200-2372





# NJCU Performing Arts Center to begin construction next year

by **Monica Sarmiento** | Editor-in-Chief



The long-rumored Performing Arts Center now looks like it's on its way to becoming a reality within the next year. Mayor Steven Fulop announced via social media last month that construction on the Center will start in early 2019.

Along with renderings of the proposed PAC Mayor Fulop said, "we worked hard with NJCU to get moving... It'll be transformational." The development is set to include a 500 seat theater, classrooms, two restaurants, student housing and market rate housing.

## There's a Place For Us Review

by **Crystal Simon** | Events Editor

There's A Place For Us, as expected, was an enjoyable evening performance by gifted artists Roy Jennings, Angela Owens, Mari-Yan Pringle and several others. The show was in support of The Ethical Community Charter School, and touched the hearts of the audience through various classic show tunes. The performers did a great job of combining African American culture, music and acting throughout the show to

stay engaging, and even kept the attention of children in the audience. The most memorable moment for me was the recital of *Soon Ah Will be Done*, which was first performed by Mahalia Jackson in *Imitation of Life*. Lucia Bradford did a great job of conveying the emotional depth of the song, and the performance was particularly moving. Overall the show was great, and I would definitely recommend those interested

in classic music from African American culture look out for these artists in the future.







I heard frogs croaking last night, Indian ink and paper, by Gaku Tsutaja





Courtesy of Professor Midori Yoshimoto

## Parakeet storytellers and gekiga manga

by **Michi Suazo** | Features Editor

Drawings of anthropomorphic parakeets building plane motors, writing letters, and witnessing the destruction of a landscape are parts of Gaku Tsutaja's artwork. Her manga-style drawings display the bleak atmosphere of war in a way that resembles daguerreotype photographs. What is unnerving about the parakeets is the absence of eyes. "My characters have no eyes. It is to symbolize anonymity," said Tsutaja.

Mixed-media artist Gaku Tsutaja, visited Professor Midori Yoshimoto's Japanese Pop Culture and Art class to showcase her work to students. Tsutaja creates narrative-

based installations composed of multiple parts. As part of NJCU's "The Persistence of History" exhibit, Tsutaja included her piece called Monk Parakeet Theatre, which is composed of wood, wire net, reeds, bamboos, strings, cloth, stones and two channel videos that dictated excerpts from various poems by Sankichi Toge (a survivor of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima) about the devastating effects of the atomic bombs. Aside from parakeets, her other drawings portray anthropomorphic moles, chickens, cows and other animal protagonists as universal figures that do not represent any race or nationality. "I chose

parakeets because I wanted them to tell history through their perspective," said Tsutaja. "Parakeets are also an invasive species in America and a metaphor for immigration." Tsutaja then held a class activity in which students created their own characters with an animal of their choosing.

As part of a lecture exchange, CUNY Professor Shige Suzuki also visited Professor Yoshimoto's Japanese Pop Culture and Art class to have a lecture on Gekiga manga (Japanese term for comics that means "dramatic pictures" and is aimed at adult audiences with a cinematic style and more mature themes)

and youth counterculture of the 60's. Professor Suzuki teaches courses in Japanese literature, film, culture, as well as the Japanese language. Students discussed the origins of Gekiga manga and its role in contemporary culture now.

It is Professor Yoshimoto's third time teaching the course, Japanese Pop Culture and Art, teaching it once a semester per year. She plans to propose the class as part of Study Abroad Program so students can possibly visit Osaka or Tokyo to learn about Japanese culture and history in the future.

# “Mayor Man”

by **Angela Garcia** | Contributing Writer

The first and only African-American Mayor of Jersey City was elected in 2001. Glenn D. Cunningham, a graduate of NJCU, served as a police officer and the first black Federal Marshal in the state of New Jersey before becoming Mayor. Cunningham passed away while in office in 2004. His influence in Jersey City continues to live on in the hearts of many.

On October 9th an event was held in the Congressman Frank J. Guarini Library to commemorate Cunningham's life in Jersey City. It was also the same date that Cunningham graduated from NJCU in 1974. As students, faculty and community members poured in, smiles were seen all around.

Some in the audience expressed appreciation for a black alumnus since they felt the library has a lack of diversity in its displays.

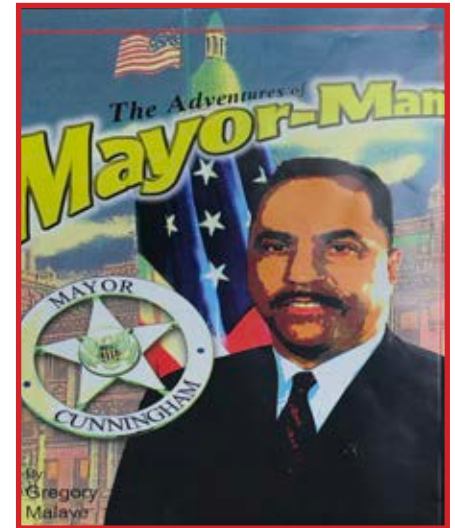
Calm jazz music drifted through the air, while the history of Cunningham unfolded, “Mayor Man,” the first comic-book on a Jersey City mayor was revealed. A picture of Cunningham with the letter “M” strewn across the chest. “The only one to truly fill the hero's shoes was Glenn” said the speaker as a tear formed in his eye as he stepped down to let Senator Sandra Cunningham speak. “All his life was in Jersey city. The people, they loved Glenn. All his life was in Jersey City and he proved very early on that if you want something, if you believe in yourself, you

can do anything you want. All his life was in Jersey city!” Sandra Cunningham said.

Today, the Sandra and Glenn D. Cunningham Foundation exists to provide high school graduates from Jersey City and Bayonne with a small scholarship and a mentor to help them in college. In June of 2011, 14 students were awarded \$1,500 scholarships by the foundation, and it still offers educational empowerment to the Jersey City community by offering financial and mentoring resources to students who may not have them available at home.

The foundation is located in Jersey City and is run

by Sandra Cunningham, who still helps fund the education of students that will someday be our doctors, technicians, politicians, lawyers and influencers.



## NJCU cuts ribbon on Gothic Knights Food Pantry

by **Monica Sarmiento** | Editor-in-Chief

President Sue Henderson, Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Jimmy Jung, Interim Associate Vice President for Student Affairs Jodi Bailey, Assistant Director of Community Engagement Robert Quinones, and NJCU alumni Rukiya Bluford who will be overseeing the upcoming Community Center's day-to-day operations, were all present at the Gothic Knight Food Pantry's (GKFP) ribbon cutting last month.

The Food Pantry is one of the first steps NJCU has taken to build a new Community Center, an initiative within the Center for Community

Engagement and Campus Life. Addressing the crowd in GSUB, where the GKFP is located, Sue Henderson said “Recently, NJCU began a needs assessment for food insecurity on our campus and the office of the Vice President of Student Affairs deemed it was necessary for the campus to launch a food pantry, plans for a food pantry as well as create a pathway for students to access social services through the main location on campus. Currently, the university offers three options for students, faculty and staff to be able to access food: The Gothic Knight Food Pantry, **Continued to next page**





# Post-Election reflection: a breakdown of the blue

by **Marco Rezk** | Copyeditor

The 2018 midterm elections have come and gone, but they left a profound impact on the state of our government and our elected officials. With about 48 percent turnout and 113 million Americans voting in this most recent election, the “blue wave” made its way across the nation, giving Democrats back control of the House of Representatives while the Senate remains under Republican control, now leading to a divided Congress.

48 percent turnout might not seem like a lot, but it’s actually quite high for a midterm election. Turnout usually sits around 40 percent, and in 2014 that number went under 37 percent. While it’s hard to celebrate having less than half the eligible voting population participate, it’s still quite an improvement, and it shows that when turnout is high, left-leaning candidates tend to win more often.

It’s not all sunshine and rainbows, though. Tensions ran high as ten seats were still undecided in the House post-election day, and there are still two more left undecided at this moment. Senatorial and gubernatorial elections in Florida and Georgia had gone to a recount, where the Republican nominees managed

to keep their close victories, despite being under claims of voter suppression. Recounts in Florida are especially infamous for going awry, especially in Broward County, where it seems they don’t know how to count (see: The 2000 Presidential Elections).

President Trump has expressed his annoyance at the recounts in Florida. “The Florida Election should be called in favor of Rick Scott and Ron DeSantis in that large numbers of new ballots showed up out of nowhere, and many ballots are missing or forged. An honest vote count is no longer possible—ballots massively infected. Must go with Election Night!” he wrote on Twitter.

Comments like these, that question the validity of our elections ruin the trust citizens have in our government and representatives, always leaving doubt if it was truly the people’s will. A similar effect was seen when the investigation of Trump colluding with Russia to alter the results of the 2016 Presidential elections, especially through manipulation of voting machines.

The win in the House has prompted Democrats to start pushing the Russia investigation further. Plans include subpoenaing the

President, among other figures. However, with the firing of Attorney General Jeff Sessions, investigators have to worry if they’re working on borrowed time.

This election was about more than just Congress and some governors’ seats. For many people it was about voting against Donald Trump and his constituents in Congress; many candidates saw noticeable drops in support after being endorsed by the Commander in Chief than before. For example, Bob Hugin was trailing by only two to three points behind Bob Menendez to represent New Jersey in the senate, but after being endorsed by Trump, dropped to 10 points behind.

For others, it was to push progressive policies forward. Beto O’Rourke, despite losing the Texas senatorial race to Ted Cruz, had managed to bring the enthusiasm he created along to the Texas House of Representatives, flipping twelve seats over to Democrats. And in California, Democrats gained a supermajority in both the state General Assembly and the Senate. The blue wave wasn’t shallow; it reached all the way down to the local levels of our government.

So what happens now? With the Democrats

taking control of the House and the Republicans keeping the Senate, it might be very easy for an optimist to believe that the politicians will cross party lines to compromise and create sensible legislation, as is the traditional view of politics, but what is more likely is that obstructionism will play a big role like it did in 2010.

House Democrats are likely to try and stop conservative policies and bills from being implemented at every point they can, and Senate Republicans are likely to try and stop every Democrat bill that ever comes out of the House, including budget bills. In fact, I wouldn’t be surprised if we had another government shutdown so soon after the last one in January, and to a lesser extent, the one in February.

Even if a shutdown or a lock in Congress doesn’t happen, it should at least be expected that Democrats will try to push the Russia investigation by Robert Mueller as far as possible, in order to prove if the President worked with the Russian government to rig the 2016 election. Subpoenas are likely to happen as soon as the next congressional session assembles and is called to order. Whatever happens, it’s going to be a very interesting two years.

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the Helping Our Neighbors Eat program and the Weekend Backpack Program.”

The GKFP has had

a total of 315 visits and has distributed over 2,300 pounds of food within its first three weeks. Over 154 total meals were distributed in two weeks through the Helping Our Neighbors Eat Program, and

13 backpacks were distributed through the first Weekend Backpack Program.

“One of the key things that an institution of higher education must do is to be important to its community,”

President Henderson said, “It must be an anchor in its community, and I think that we are. We are for the arts, we are for the education we offer, we are an anchor because of our graduates.”

# *'Tis the season to watch movies*

by **Maxine Antoine** | A&E Editor

Christmas is near, with presents for movie lovers! Here are the top four must-watch movies coming out in December.

## **Spiderman: Into the Spider-Verse (Animated Adventure)**

This animated version comes jam-packed with different types of Spiderman across the multiverse such as Spider-Gwen, a female version of Spiderman, and Spider-Ham, a pig version of Spiderman. The main character, Miles, chooses to become the next Spiderman after the Peter Parker of his world dies. The Spiderman that is closest to the one we all know and love, is thinking of retiring from his superhero career after twenty years. The older Peter from a parallel Earth decides to mentor Miles, into becoming the next Spiderman. Spiderman and his band of alternate heroes are flying into our theaters on December 14.

## **On the Basis of Sex (Historical Drama)**

This film is based on a true story about Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who is an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. The movie focuses on her life as a young lawyer when she worked with her husband to bring a case of gender discrimination before the court. This is interesting because it's centralized around breaking down the barriers of sexism through the court system and it tackles female-empowerment themes such as women fulfilling both the roles of motherhood and a working

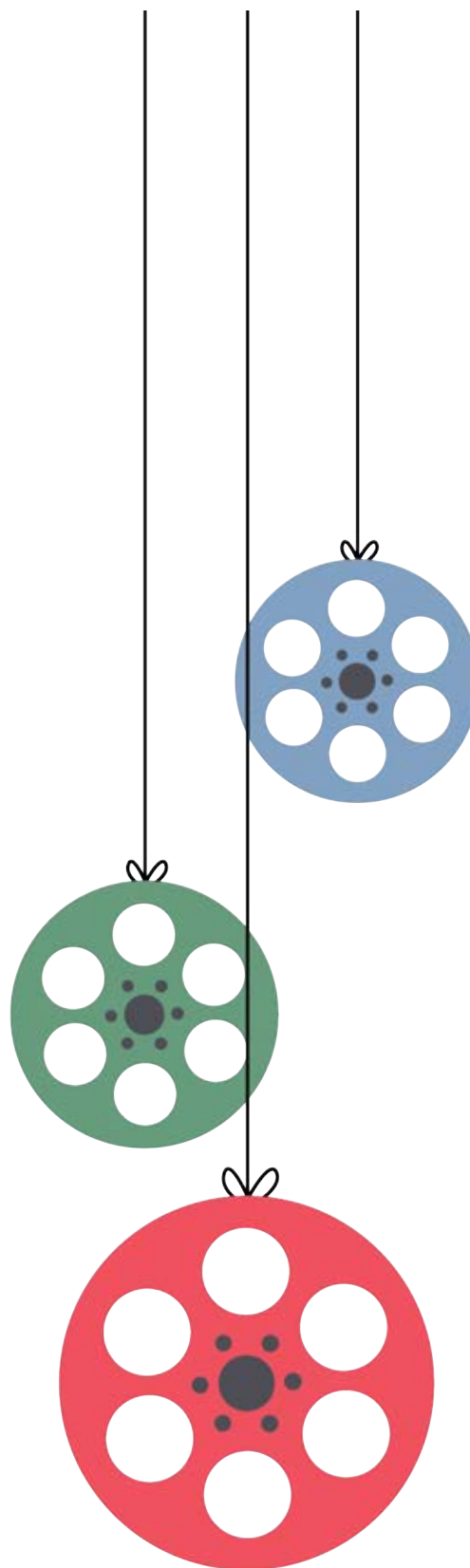
class citizen. Await to watch the groundbreaking case of gender discrimination unfold on Christmas day.

## **Second Act (Rom-Com)**

If watching drama movies aren't fun for you, a recommendation to try out would be this funny new rom-com, starring Jennifer Lopez, called the "Second Act." The main character, Maya, feels like she has not fulfilled her dreams or made any accomplishments in her life. She is frustrated at the fact that street smarts are overlooked in comparison to book smarts. She finally gets her chance when she gets hired to work at a private finance firm as a consultant, but can she keep it up with just her book smarts? Find out if she really gets her "Second Act" on December 21st.

## **Destroyer (Crime Thriller)**

Last but not least in the collections of movies coming to theaters, is a movie that is the opposite of "getting into the holiday spirits". Starring Nicole Kidman is the action crime thriller called Destroyer. A young LAPD detective named Erin Bell, goes undercover to infiltrate a gang in the California desert, however, it produced tragic results. The gang reappears years later and she must work to re-emerge into the gang and confronts the demons that destroyed her past. Erin Bell will be bringing destruction, sorrow, and grit on her journey to bring the criminals to justice on December 25.





# Not your average student athlete

by **Kristen Hazzard** | Sports Editor

As a young boy growing up in Vancleave, Mississippi, Justin Davis devoted his time to being a boy scout by volunteering and enjoying the outdoors. He aspired to be a civil servant when he got older in order to give back to his community.

Now a 41-year-old United States Veteran, Davis is married with a four-year-old son. He is a junior at NJCU and will be receiving a Bachelor's degree in accountancy. He is also apart of the NJCU Men's Golf team.

Davis enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 2004 at 23-years-old and served for eight years. He always that knew he would serve in the military and he also came from a military family which helped him make his decision to enlist. His grandfather served in both the Korean and Vietnam war while his older cousin served in the Army. His grandfather was fine with his decision to enlist, however his grandmother and mom weren't enthusiastic. After a while, his mom did accept his decision.

He was first stationed in Japan and then in the Philippines for a joint exercise. Before enlisting, Davis had never been outside the United States. As he traveled throughout the Middle East and Asia, he gained a lot of cultural experiences. He recalled the northwest part of Iraq as one of the best places he has traveled to. He found it interesting that despite the soldiers being in their backyard, the locals still welcomed them in.

He was quickly

promoted to E-5 sergeant. He served as the squad leader in combat operations and led a squad of eight soldiers. Most of them were between 18 and 22 years old. His age didn't matter to them because they saw Davis as an older brother. He and his squad still stay in touch. Davis found that building connections were necessary, particularly with the friends he served with. Instead of checking in through social media, he decided it was easier to pick up the phone and call his friends.

During his deployment, he rarely came home and went years without seeing the United States. Being far from home made it hard for him to talk with his family. They were aware of his situation and because of that, he avoided talking to his mom. He would tell her, "I'm okay and I'll see you when I get out." Davis lost his father at an early age and was later raised by his grandparents. He has always had a close relationship with his grandfather and considered him as his hero. Throughout his eight years of service, Davis has received countless awards and decorations. He received The Korean Defense Service Medal, Marine Corp Advancement medals, community service medals, and many others.

Although Davis had to transition into the civilian life six years ago, he genuinely misses being in the Marines. He said, "You become accustomed to the lifestyle...it takes a long time to adjust." The structure and the chain of command that was once there isn't there anymore. He is now applying his military lifestyle to his

college life. Following in the footsteps of his older cousin who's a veteran and college graduate, Davis enrolled into NJCU to further his education. With a finance background in the military, he decided to get a degree in accountancy. He was originally studying to be a marine biologist but life led him onto a different avenue.

Before playing on a collegiate level, he saw golf as a hobby while he was deployed. Rather than stay in the barracks all day, Davis and his friend found two golf clubs sitting in a closet and decided to put them to use. In that moment, he chose golf and never looked back. Davis said, "Golf is a bug and I got bit a long time ago." He joined the NJCU golf program during the spring semester of 2017. Davis said, "playing on a collegiate level has been absolutely phenomenal... knowing that there's a bar set and you need to rise up and exceed it." Although he is 20

years older than most of his teammates, he has become an example of how to be respectful and accountable. "It's great to have Justin on the team, he certainly brings a lot of positive vibes to the program. Whether it's his maturity level or the ability to be on time," said Joseph Yeck head coach for NJCU Men's Golf. "He's a very competitive person and he would agree if I said this, that he's not the most talented player... but he puts in the time and effort."

In his new role as a civilian, he has gained a greater respect and interest for the local community and law enforcement. He explained how the local law enforcement are on the front lines interacting with the community and that isn't easy. However he believes that the local community should be able to come to together and create better ideas where everyone can agree.

**Photo Courtesy of Ira Thor**





## NJ Transit Informational Interviews & Networking Event

All students are invited to  
network for internship  
opportunities.

December 12, 2018  
12 - 2 p.m.

NJCU School of Business,  
Lecture Hall

RSVP & more info:  
[bit.ly/njcu-  
networking2019](https://bit.ly/njcu-networking2019)

Antoinette Ellis-Williams (left) with Leah Jackson, president of B.A.A.F.S.S.O., at the opening reception for GirlHood/UnDone, a solo art exhibit by Ellis-Williams. A professor of Women's and Gender Studies at NJCU, Ellis-Williams is also a visual artist. Last year she won NJCU's MLK Jr. Community Service Award.



Multicultural Month opening celebration, November, in GSUB.

1) Members of the Confucius Center dance through the lobby.

2) Left to right: guest speaker Jason Rosaio, from The Lives of Men, Jeffrey Dessources, director of the Office of Campus Life and musician and performer Okai Musik.

## The Gothic Times 2018 - 2019

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