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Light Rail Closures

Disrupt Commutes and Schedules

he West Side light rail station is closed until March 2020, affecting hundreds of students, faculty and staff.

Earlier this year, a sewer leak was discovered underneath three light rail stations which required immediate repair. Repairs to the pipes underneath the rails began in June. Until repairs are finished, light rail services are suspended at West Side Avenue, Garfield Avenue, and Martin Luther King Drive.

The increase in transit time is an issue for many, especially for students who rely on the light rail to get to and

by Marco Rezk | Editor-in-Chief

from both the main campus and the School of Business. The university has currently not provided any alternative way of getting to the business school from the main campus.

In place of light rail services at these stops, NJ Transit has provided shuttle buses, but this will increase commute times for the average person.

For students like Ayaa Elayyan, a sophomore majoring in Marketing and Management taking all of her Fall semester classes at the business school, both transportation and parking are major problems she faces in the upcoming school year.

"I was planning on parking by West Side and going [to the business school] by the light rail," says Elayyan.. "A lot of the business students do that." The university does not have a parking lot near the School of Business for students and faculty, and parking around the area is limited. "There is...barely any parking by the business school, and if there is, it's an hourly rate."

The shuttle buses go up to Liberty State Park, where light rail

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Groceries to Ballet: NJCU expanding campus with new projects

School will begin ShopRite

project this fall

f you or your parents are worried about the food options you have on campus, the university is changing that. A ShopRite supermarket will begin construction at West Campus on October 1.

Plans for a ShopRite on West Campus have been delayed for various reasons. In 2016 the Hackensack Riverkeeper environmental group filed a lawsuit against NJCU and Honeywell International Inc. to try and block the development of the commercial building. The Riverkeeper was concerned because there was a poisonous chemical known as chromium, under the ground.

Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Aaron Aska said the chromium was cleaned.

"The remediation of the West Campus, (now known as University Place), was completed several years ago. The remediation of the non-chromium and chromium portions of the site, were done in accordance with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) standards, and are subject to a consent decree signed by Riverkeepers and Honeywell, Inc."

However, Alicia Alcorn, a lawyer representing the Hackensack Riverkeeper, said even though the chromium was remediated, the cap that is there may still be affected.



by Kenise Brown | News Editor

"It's all about safety. The safety of the students and people who will be attending the ShopRite. During the contamination, [Hackensack Riverkeeper], NJCU, and Honeywell Inc. agreed to have the ShopRite located adjacent to the cap and not on it. Yes the contamination was remediated but the cap was punctured before and may be punctured again due to this project," Alcorn said.

Aska assured through an email interview that the Shoprite is not going to be located on the cap.

Aska, who spoke at a Town Hall meeting this summer, explained what happened with the ShopRite years ago.

"In 2015, the University entered into several Public Private Partnership agreements with various real estate developers. The income generated from these developers will fund a significant portion of the NJCU's Performing Arts Center, and the Center for Music Dance and Theater."

NJCU's Performing Arts Center and Joffrey Ballet Partnership

This summer the NJCU Board of Trustees approved plans for a new Music, Dance, and Theatre (MDT) building with a Performing Arts Center with rental apartments.

Aska said the center could be finished by 2021.

"This facility is expected to be developed in approximately two years."

The center will have five different parts all together in one. The first part will consist of performing stages and dancing stages for the students. MDT education including classrooms will be located in the second part. In the third part, there will be three restaurants on the ground level. Rental housing units is the fourth part of the center. Lastly, the fifth part will be a parking garage that is going to be located adjacent to the center.

Once it is completed, students from Joffrey Ballet school in New York City will be bringing their talents to the center.

Aska said the Joffrey Ballet students will become NJCU students.

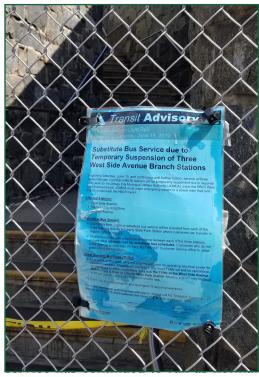
"Concomitantly, the University has entered into various agreements with the world renowned Joffrey Ballet to offer a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree and a Joffrey certificate in dance. Joffrey Ballet will relocate its operations to the newly built PAC, and co-occupy this facility with NJCU."

NJCU's very own Nursing Center

The school now has a Nursing Education Center created for students who are studying in the field. The center was completed in June 2019 and is located in Rossey Hall on the 4th, 5th, and 6th floors with access for the students. Located on the 4th floor is the Nursing Faculty Office, renovated classrooms, and a new student lounge. On the 5th floor are large sized classrooms that can now fit up to 30 students in each class. Lastly on the 6th floor, are five simulation labs, a conference room, and an area for projects.



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up to every other station. Official schedules of the shuttles from NJ Transit show that the buses start running from approximately 5 AM to 2 AM, with frequent departures from each station.

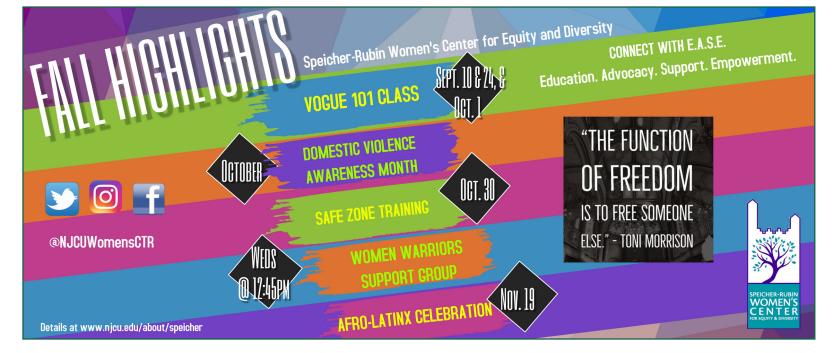
In March, NJ Transit noted a 15 minute increase in commute time with the use of shuttle buses for the average person. However, this seems to have been an inaccurate estimate.

The official schedule for the shuttle buses running from West Side Avenue to Liberty State Park and back show at least a 20 minute increase in commute time, and for local buses, which pass through all affected light rail stations, show up to 30 minute travel times. The times do not factor in traffic, which tends to skew the increased commute times even higher above official recorded estimates.

The shuttle buses are also consistently subject to delays. A search through the history of the Hudson-Bergen Light Rail's official Twitter account shows at least seven times since June 15th where shuttle bus service from West Side Avenue to Liberty State Park and vice versa was delayed, out of service, or rerouted due to mechanical failures, weather conditions, construction in other parts of Jersey City, or police activity. Last semester, the Student Government Association did a giveaway of Uber and gas cards to students on a first come first serve basis, in order to alleviate the concerns of students who go to the School of Business. While details are limited on whether or not this event will run again in the Fall and Spring semesters, Ebony Drew, SGA's Vice President of Public Relations and Marketing, said, "We're working on it."

As of writing, NJCU's Parking and Transportation Services department could not be reached for comment on possible plans for a university shuttle to or a parking lot near the School of Business.





Looking Forward to The Past

by Michi Suazo | Features ditor

he Essex County Jail is the oldest surviving government building in Newark. In Search of the Just City: Rethinking the Old Essex County Jail is an exhibit that

racial profiling and lack of opportunity in education spurred African-American citizens to take action. On July 12 of that year, a rally was organised to protest the beating and incarceration of a black



imagines what could be done with this now abandoned site.

Columbia University architectural students proposed plans for improving and transforming this building, which was first constructed in 1837. A few suggestions by students were to either turn the space into a science and technological museum, community hub, student housing or park space. Current and former NJCU students designed the exhibit, including full-time exhibition designer, Shantal Henry; and recent graduate of the visual and media arts program at NJCU, Monica Sarmiento. The jail has a long history dating back to 1837 and was also a part of the 1967 Newark riots (one of the 159 race riots that occurred in cities across America of that year.)

Poet, political activist, and father of the current mayor of Newark, Amiri Baraka, was held in the jail during the riots. Civil unrest erupted on the streets due to high racial tensions between the city's majority African-American citizens and white politicians. Unemployment, poverty, cab driver named John William Smith by two police officers. This incited the riots that ran for four days.

In an excerpt from Amiri Baraka's The Autobiography of LeRoi Jones (at the time of his arrest, Baraka went by the name Leroi Jones. Shortly after the assassination of Malcolm X, could look out the windows even during the daytime and see its effects. One day, in the middle of the afternoon, we spotted a car coming around the corner and up New Street. The National Guard had been brought into the city and they were staked out in the vacant lot across from the jail. We could see them clearly from inside the prison. As the car came up the street the Guardsmen started firing at it. They didn't know who was in the car or where it was going. I guess they could see it was black people inside. The firing brought the car to a halt and it was quickly surrounded. One door opened and a black man and woman stumbled out. The woman was staggering and bleeding. A couple of the Guardsmen seized her and dashed her against a factory wall. The woman was slumping, obviously wounded from the gunfire. The man backed against the wall with his hands up.

SILENCE, SUPERVISION, SECURITY

When it was first built, the jail was ahead of its time. Back when it was first opened, the jail had natural lighting, garden paths, glass pane



he later changed his name to Amiri Baraka and then became a Muslim) he talks about his experience in the jail:

What was so strange about being in jail then is that we still knew that there was a rebellion going on outside. We flooring, a greenhouse, and courtyards. The jail also had indoor plumbing and sanitation before the White House even had it.

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The jail was constructed ahead of its time. Built in 1837 by British architect John Haviland, the jail concentrated on effectively reforming prisoners without the use of brutal punishment common in that era such as whipping, branding, and pillorying (punishment by public humiliation where the punished had their head and hands inserted between wooden boards.) Prison reformers like Haviland had three goals in mind: silence, supervision, and security. They introduced natural light and space for reflection to better rehabilitate prisoners. The jail had garden paths, glass pane flooring, a greenhouse, and courtyards prisoners could enjoy if they behaved well. Expansions were installed later which introduced running water. electricity and heat, indoor plumbing and sanitation. The prisoners served short sentences before rejoining the community. Those incarcerated were due to petty crimes such as drunkenness and prostitution. In the year of 1882, almost 46 percent of the prisoners were foreign-born.

Before Haviland introduced his innovative prison structures, the

county had a courthouse with a jail in the dark and damp basement--elements completely opposite of what the Old Essex County Jail had.

"It's also really interesting to learn about the history of a place that's been abandoned," said Sarmiento. "Because most of the time we don't even think twice about old buildings that we pass by and have only known to be just that: old and abandoned."

The jail was officially added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1991--about 20 years after it was closed. In Search of the Just City: Rethinking the old Essex County Jail is an exhibit by the Newark Preservation and Landmarks Committee. It will remain in the Hahne's Building Atrium at 54 Halsey Street, Newark until September 27. The exhibit is free and within walking distance from the Newark PATH station. More

information about the exhibit can be found on

https://www.oldessexcountyjail.org/.

IMPRISONMENT THEN AND NOW

"I think that no matter how much Newark has - and some might say that it hasn't - changed over the years it's important to acknowledge its complicated and troubled past," said Sarmiento. "The old Essex County Jail is a major part of understanding Newark's history as it grew and adapted just as the city did. Also, while we were working on the exhibit there was news coming out about the new Essex County Jail (I think they refer to it as a Correctional Facility, though) and the horrible health and safety conditions that inmates were facing. ICE also holds detainees there. It just feels like a vital time to think about what jail and imprisonment means in America."

"I worked on an exhibit panel about the materials and technology used in the jail over time and I thought it was fascinating that they had working plumbing and electricity before most of the city did. The jail was originally built with the intention of reforming and rehabilitating prisoners and it almost seems like there was an effort to actually do that back then whereas as the modern prison system sees the opposite."

Monica Sarmiento is a recent NJCU graduate and the former editor-in-chief of The Gothic Times.



Tips For Freshmen

by Angela A. Garcia- Contributing Writer

s someone who is on campus as often as I am at my full time job, there were things I wish I knew attending NJCU. Did you know you can use your Gothic ID card to pay for food at the truck? If you don't know what the truck is, its name is Bill's Food Truck. It's parked on Audubon Avenue serving everything from a bagel with cream cheese to a strawberry Pina Colada (Non-alcoholic) between that English and Math class break. Did you know you could also load your student ID with money for parking? Or you could buy a parking pass for the semester? With a parking pass you can use the lot at GSUB or lots 6 and 7, and take the shuttle to the main campus from West Campus Village, the newer residence hall.

If you took a school tour, you know that Hepburn is the administration building. You can find Financial Aid, Bursar's (Also known as the Office of Student Accounts), Card services, and the Margaret Williams theatre where NJCU's Musical Theatre Workshop performs countless musicals like "Shrek the Musical" and "In the Heights". Hepburn is also the oldest building on campus, and the Gothic Lounge was the very first school library before the Congressman Frank J. Guarini was erected. The library has all your academic resources needed to succeed at NJCU. The first floor is study areas where you can rent them out using your student ID for 2 hours if you're in a group. It also has Dunkin' Donuts for those early mornings and late nights that you just can't keep yourself up for. The library has four floors, and the higher you go, the quieter it gets, but the view of campus from the fourth floor is probably the best view for all those photographers and artists to capture a really beautiful sunset.

GSUB has the Center for Leadership and Engagement (CLE) which partners with Student Government Association (SGA) and Student Activities Board (SAB) to have phenomenal events on campus. GSUB also has the cafeteria on the second floor and a counseling center on the third floor. Also on the first floor is our university bookstore which you can buy books, and any NJCU apparel. GSUB is the prime spot to destress, but don't get too distracted by all the amazing events that happen through campus life and the amazing team on the Student Activities Board

If you need medical assistance you'd go to the Health and Wellness Center in Vodra Hall, which is where you'd also talk to your advisor for registration in the Academic Advisement Center right down the hall.

All sporting events with your NJCU ID are free for students. Indoor sporting events like basketball, volleyball, and dodgeball (amongst many other sports) would be at the Charlie Brown Court inside the JMAC. The outdoor sports such as baseball and softball would be at the Thomas M. Gerrity Athletic Complex on Route 440.

The School of Business, located at the Harborside Financial Center, has a beautiful skyline view of New York City, which is a great distraction from the hectic studies throughout your semester. The bright side is that it's only two stops away from the view on the PATH train.

A few things that helped me my first year of college at NJCU were my friends, professors, and a few students that know what school pride is to make our school feel like home. "Always have confidence in your work" is one of Sergio Martinez's mantras when his semester as a graduate student gets tough. He graduated with a Bachelor's in the Music Business program, and was a student ambassador before he graduated in 2018.



Farewell Dr. Guzman



S tudents and faculty poured into the Gothic Lounge on Thursday July 25th, to send off William Guzman, director of the Dr. Lee F. Hagan Africana Studies Center and professor of African American Studies and History.

In attendance were the new Black Alumni, Administrators, Faculty, Students and Staff Organization (BAAFSSO) executive board; President of the NAACP branch in Jersey City Reverend Nathaniel Legay; Jersey City Poet Laureate Rashad Wright; Jermaine McCalpain, chair of the African American Studies Department; retired faculty and countless students.

The emotion which filled the room magnificently reflected Guzman's impact here at NJCU. Many who spoke on his behalf found themselves either lost for words or in a fit of tears.

Even the guests who did not speak were teary eyed to see the beloved freedom fighter depart.

Guzman will be traveling on to Prairie View University, a Historically Black College located in Houston, Texas. Many inhabitants of the NJCU community, both staff and students alike, were highly upset upon hearing the news that he would be leaving our

by Nevin Perkins - Op-Ed Editor

community for what

appeared to be no reason at all.

Guzman cleared up the angered confusion by informing his colleagues, loved ones, and

supporters that the reason for his departure, more specifically his resignation, was because he was denied tenure. Interestingly enough, the last African American history professor to be given tenure was Lee Hagan himself, 32 years ago.

It is clear that we are at an extreme shortage of African American faculty representation, so it is unclear why such a small request for a man of great stature was not

granted. William Guzman definitely proved himself beyond the capacity of what a valuable asset to an institution should classify as.

In just two and a half years here, William Guzman has touched and impacted the lives of many, including myself. I had the unique privilege of attending a Malcolm X memorial event located at the Malcolm X gravesite with our beloved brother. While there, he not only introduced me to important people in the culture, he also took the time to converse with me and gave me valuable knowledge, knowledge I will most certainly cherish.

Upon conversing with many students, I learned that I am not alone in my thoughts about William Guzman. Most students who have had the privilege of getting to know him view him as a role model, a guide, and most importantly, an inspiration as well as a freedom fighter for the people. It is not just a loss for the university, but a loss for the Jersey City community as a whole.

I first had the pleasure of hearing Guzman speak at the annual Juneteenth Flag Raising Ceremony at Jersey City Hall this past June. I entered the hall and spotted Guzman sitting in

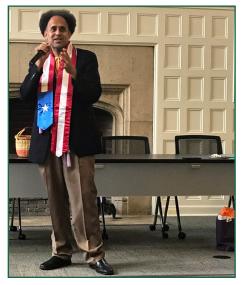
front, so naturally I went and joined him. As humble as always, he made no mention of his speech, and it was not until his name was called that I finally looked at the program and realized he was the keynote speaker. He then proceeded to blow the crowd away with a message so powerful, it is without a doubt that the ancestors were in attendance, listening intently.

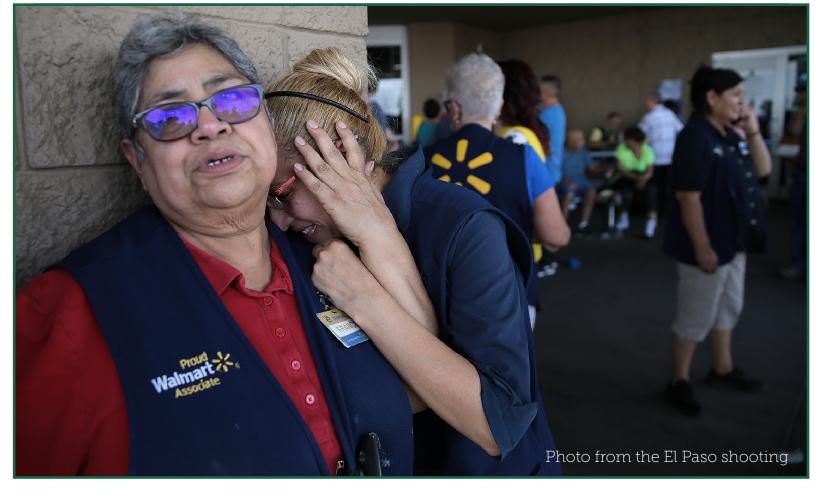
"Dr. William Guzman will be sorely missed here at NJCU," said Venida Rodman Jenkins,

the newly elected President of BAAFSSO, as well as the director of the Speicher-Rubin Women's Center. "He was committed to our students, to the community, and to ensuring that the lives of young black students, particularly young black men and all marginalized groups were front and center." She continues, "It was disappointing to see him go. L wish we

disappointing to see him go, I wish we could have retained him, however his impact will be lasting."

I ask students, in remembrance of William Guzman, take a long, hard look at NJCU and ask yourself, "Am I fully represented here?" If the answer is no, then please organize and demand that the university caters to your needs as a student.





The 2 Mass Shootings You Haven't Heard of

by Stephanie Bock

America Shrugs at Two Shootings in the Same Week as Gilroy, Dayton, and El Paso... Why?

Around 11 pm on July 28th, a man named Jason Pagan got into a heated argument with two other men at an "Old Timers" festival in Brownsville, Brooklyn, resulting in him taking out a pistol and firing into the crowd, killing 1 and injuring 11. Mr. Pagan is believed to have ties to the Bloods, and has been released from prison 6 months prior on a gun charge.

The next night, the same night as the Gilroy shooting, there was another attack in Philadelphia while a rapper, Ezra Weah, was filming a music video, resulting in his death and also injuring 5 others. There currently is no known shooter nor motive in the shooting. However, Weah was carrying a stolen

gun. I found it strange that I had never heard of these incidents, especially one so close to home. Then, I saw there was no surprise that I have not been informed of either of these incidents, as the lack of coverage was shocking. For the shooting in Philadelphia, I could only find a total of 10 articles written, 3 are local news, 4 are music journals, and only 3 are major national news. The articles that the major outlets did write were only a few sentences long and lacking in detail.

The Brownsville shooting followed the same pattern. I could only find few articles on the topic, mostly by a local paper called the Brooklyn Eagle or The Trace. However, there were only 3 "mainstream" articles I could find by WABC, PIX11, and CBS NY. Essentially, this story could not be heard by anyone that is not in the New York area.

An article from The Trace, titled "When 12 People are Shot in Your Neighborhood, and America Shrugs", commented on the lack of coverage, "Between six of the leading national newspapers in the United States, only two devoted space on their websites' front pages to the Brownsville shooting for more than a few hours on Sunday and Monday, according to archived versions of the sites captured by Wayback Machine. All six devoted space on their homepage to the Gilroy shooting

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for an average of 14-plus hours during the same period." Newspapers did give Gilroy substantially more coverage, though both incidents are just as significant. We should not place importance of one over another; both are senseless acts resulted in a loss of life and many injured.

Now, the next question is why? Well, both of these incidents have occurred in poor, African-American neighborhoods that are known for violence. Though Brownsville right now is experiencing a decrease in violent crimes, the neighborhood does have a history of felony crimes. For example, there were 1,603 felony crimes in Brownsville in 2016 as opposed to 2,249 in 2012. Southwest Philadelphia is also known for violent crime, as it has 14,930 violent incidents per 100,000 people.

When these shootings happened in these neighborhoods, with these crime statistics, and in addition to the fact that these incidents were blackon-black crimes, it is almost expected to happen. The killing of African-American and Hispanic men in cities is common, actually 8 out of 10 homicide victims in Philadelphia alone where minorities. Philadelphia did not jump to report on Weah's death because it was nothing out of the ordinary. Likewise, for the shooting in Brooklyn. A shooting occurred that might be related to the Bloods in a particularly violent neighborhood; they thought nothing of it.

However, I do believe the victims of these shootings and the survivors do deserve as much attention as any other tragedy. Stories such as these should not be glossed over because they are considered the norm in their neighborhood. This should not be the norm, anywhere.

New Coaches Join NJCU

Photos courtesy : Ira Thor



Elena Pirozhkova Head Women's Wrestling Coach



Jacob Mishkin Head Men's and Women's Tennis Coach



Harry Turner Head Men's Wrestling Coach



Justin Beaumont Head Women's Volleyball Coach

The Circle of Life Remastered

E Everyone's childhood is being rekindled with the remake of The Lion King (2019),released in theaters. A new generation can experience the beloved Disney masterpiece, with anew twist: The remake was made in "live-action", in comparison to the original 1994

animated version. It has some extraordinarily talented voice actors, including the likes of Beyonce Knowles (Nala). James Earl Jones (Mufasa), Seth Rogen (Pumba) and Donald Glover AKA Childish Gambino (Simba). There is much anticipation from audiences of all ages. The question is, how will these new computer-generated images stack up, and what changes are awaiting the viewers?

Director Jon Favreau for the most part kept true to the original plot, with any minor differences in the script being insignificant. The movie's soundtrack included remakes of songs from the original movie such as "The Circle of Life" and "Hakuna Matata."

by Sandra Mendez - A&E Editor

The essence of the characters were brought to life, as one is able to see Simba's journey from being an eager and mischievous cub to the future king of the pride lands.

What made this film stand out is its realistic imagery using technological mediums to create it. While it is visually



Getty Images

stunning work, fans and critics cannot help but feel that there was a lack of emotion and mysticism that made the 1994 version unique and made it fall short on the nostalgic factor. Perhaps because live lions and hyenas don't bear actual grins on their faces? One of the greatest differences is the fact that the villain Scar is seen in a much more sympathetic light. After he learns of Simba's birth, he realizes that he will never get the opportunity to rule as king. Life gives Scar an unfortunate curve-ball, so one can understand his

resentful character and the reason behind his actions. In the original film Scar's character is seen as a ruthless cold-blooded and power hungry. If any of this sounds familiar, that's because it is the same concept in Shakespeare's play Hamlet.

The Lion King took a Disney classic and transformed it into something fun and stimulating for the younger audience. The movie stayed true to the dark tones of the original, while being more active and lighthearted in its scenes with

Timon and Pumba.. There were epic action-packed scenes that kept you at the edge of your seat. Overall, it was a decent remake and while the original can never truly be surpassed, it was a pleasure to watch.

here are also many other great films to look forward to this upcoming fall. Abominable, premiering September 27th, is about a magical yeti trying to return back home. October 4th sees the arrival of Joker in theaters, which stars Joaquin Phoenix as the arch-nemesis, and explores the origin story of how this unhinged character came to be. Maleficent: Mistress of Evil comes out on October 18th, which brings back Angelina Jolie to continue the tale of Maleficent as the main character. There is so much more excitement in store, coming soon to a theater near you!



Meet the New Student Government Association

he Student Government Association has launched into action, and is bigger than ever before. Previously named the Student Government Organization, the student government entity now hosts a dedicated Student Activities Board (SAB), a judicial branch, and a student organization officer, alongside the executive board.

The change in organizational structure and name is due to a variety of reasons, but to the new Student Government Association President Ricky Cruz, he saw it as a problem of structure and scope. "You had an organization governing an organization," he says. "We can now be a governing party of clubs and orgs without having another organization to

by Marco Rezk | Editor-in-Chief

be over them."

In President Cruz's eyes, being an association means they can do more than they could as an organization, and reach out to more students. "What our goal is, at the end of the day...is to impact all of our students."

Both the SGA Executive Board and the Student Activities Board have happily provided their office contact information so you can reach out to them.



SGA Executive Board. Left to Right: Ebony Drew, Marcus Daniels, Ricky Cruz, Sunky Chang, and Richard Salmeron. Photo by Ebony Drew

President: Ricky Cruz rcruz2@njcu.edu (201) 200-2127

Executive Vice President: Sunky Chang schang1@njcu.edu (201) 200-3593

Vice President of Finance and Administration: Marcus Daniels mdaniels1@njcu.edu (201) 200-3550

Vice President of Internal Affairs: Richard Salmeron rsalmeron@njcu.edu (201) 200-3561

Vice President of Public Relations and Marketing: Ebony Bernice Drew edrew@njcu.edu (201) 200-3537

Office Location: Gilligan Student Union Building: Room 125



SAB, Clockwise: Angelo Moreno, Urvi Shah, Crystal Simon, Parris Johnson, Sierra Williams. Photo by Urvi Shah

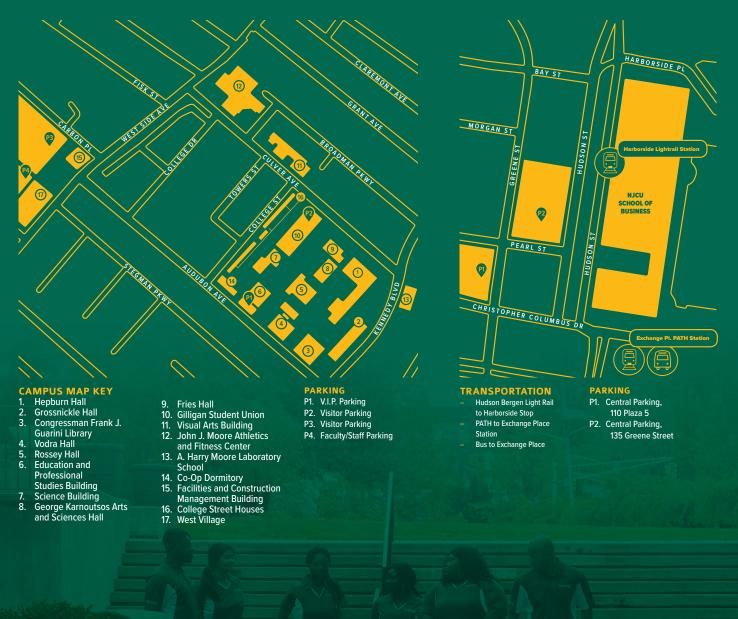
Student Activities Board

VP of Programming- Sierra Willams VP of Media & Marketing- Urvi Shah President- Angelo Moreno VP of Correspondence- Parris Johnson VP of Finance- Crystal Simmon Office Location: Gilligan Student Union Building: 302

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