



# THE GOTHIC TIMES

The Official Student Newspaper of New Jersey City University.

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November 2019

## MOM & DAUGHTER CLASSMATES

by **Sally Deering**



David Wilson

**M**arie Albert majors in Business Management at NJCU, and Andrea David double majors in Music Business and Art Therapy. Both women are first year students who support each other through the terrific

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## IN FOCUS: ADJUNCTS

by **David Wilson**



Prof. Michael DiFeo teaches in the Media Arts Dept.

A Special Photo Essay on  
Three Adjuncts on Campus

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## U.S. OLYMPIAN IS WOMEN'S WRESTLING COACH

### Women's Wrestling Paves New Path

by **Sally Deering**

**E**lena Pirozhkova grew up with eight brothers and sisters who enjoyed wrestling each other for the fun of it. Today, Pirozhkova's wrestling career is legendary – a World Champion and former U.S. Olympian on Team USA – and she was just recruited

by NJCU to be the university's first Women's Wrestling Coach.

Pirozhkova has set out recruiting students interested in joining NJCU's new women's wrestling team for the Fall 2020 semester.

"We are the first college in the tri-

state area to offer women's wrestling," Ira Thor, Assistant Director of Athletics for Strategic Communications and Marketing said. "We are trailblazers."

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# COUNSELING CENTER:

## Fourth Counselor Hired; Waitlist Decreases

by **Sandra Mendez**



**D**o you remember the staggering wait-list due to lack of staff in the counseling center? Well, steps are being taken to alleviate the situation.

Recently the counseling center hired Katiana Morisset, an experienced social worker. Morisset is an NJCU alumni who worked with various outreach programs

in Jersey City.

Currently, there are 40 students on the wait-list to see a therapist. This is an improvement from the 96 students reported last semester.

Abisola Gallagher-Hobson, the director of Counseling and Wellness Services said that the department is used to having four people:

“We’ve always, for about 20 years, [had] four counselors including myself in the office, and then when one of our people left a little over a year and a half ago we weren’t able to fill it,” Hobson said. “Since July and under the direction of Associate Vice President Jodi Bailey we now have moved forward and hired a new person.”

In addition, there will be a supplemental budget increase that can help upgrade the center and introduce new wellness programs.

## CO-OP FIRE

### Update on the Oct 25th Fire in Student Dorm

by **Sally Deering**

**J**ersey City Firefighters were called to the Co-op Residence Hall on Friday, Oct. 25th, where they encountered heavy smoke coming from one of the dorm rooms.

Firefighters evacuated students and no one was hurt. In a follow-up call to the Jersey City Fire Department on Wed, Nov. 6, Deputy Chief Joseph Menendez said the fire was caused by a burning cigarette.

“There were cigarettes in a bottle under the bed,” Menendez said. “Occupants had left the room and smoke was coming from a bottle under a bed.”



Darren Greene



# COUNTING BY SEVENS

by **Stephanie Bock**

I have always been a lover of poetry and have been drawn, particularly to the voices of writing that discuss the sides of life that we do not ordinarily talk about. Ann Wallace is one of those extraordinary authors that is not afraid to bring up the dark and traumatic sides of our lives, and as she does so, she writes it in a way that makes it feel so incredibly raw and real.

This book is broken up into three succinct sections, the first being of more political nature. This section tackles gun violence, sexual assault, and the horrors of the conditions at the border. These topics are very far far-reaching and relevant today, as everyone can relate to and these are issues we can see around us and that affect us daily. For example, in her poem, “Valentine’s Another Day”, Wallace tells the story of a mother being worried of getting a text of a looming threat from a school shooter. We, as a reader, half shrug and say “that’s life” because these threats and drills have become so commonplace, but then when you find yourself shrugging, you realize there is a fatal flaw in our system. Using strong imagery, she forces us think deeply about the society in which we live and the world around us in a way that we do not often do, or like to do. For example, she mentions children under silver blankets and shoes laid out at the White House in memory to the dead. However, we should think about these events.

The second part of this book, “Interlude”, is more meditative as it focuses on her life in New England and her children growing up. This section is a nice reflection period, as she looks back on all of the fond memories of her life. One excellent example is “A World

So Still”, “My brothers and I burrowed in the snow, for hours, digging a cave so large / that two or / three could sit inside.” she recalls from her New England childhood. Many lines such as this would resonate with readers as it did for me, as I grew up with two brothers myself and remember building many snow forts fondly. This section is almost the opposite of the previous one, as it forces me to pause realize that the world is not all bad.

Finally, the last section is “Body Rising”, which covers her cancer and

recovery through her twenties and multiple sclerosis. All of which has had a massive effect on her and her outlook on life, which we hear in her poetry. We can hear how frightened and confused she is by the weight of all of this news, that she feels literally “out of control”. Throughout this section she tells her experiences with a sense of rawness and honesty that is not often seen. I applaud Ann Wallace for having the strength to come out and share her experiences with us so personally.



# Movies to Watch: Richard Jewell

by **Angel Madera**

**//** There's a bomb in Centennial Park, you have 30 minutes," ticks like a metronome and is a bold statement in the upcoming film: *Richard Jewell*.

On July 27, 1996, a terrorist bombing struck Centennial Olympic Park in Atlanta, Georgia during the 1996 Summer Olympics. The bombing killed one person and injured 111 people. (One victim died during the bombing due to a heart attack.) Richard Jewell was reported as the person of interest to the police.

The film's trailer reverts back to the devastating day through a series of flashbacks of catastrophe on the night of the attack. FBI interviews, tense conversations at home, even media outlets deciding how they will air the news, portraying Jewell as a disgruntled white man, a "police wannabe," and using a devastating headline, initially calling him a "lone bomber."

Jewell finds himself scandalized by the mistreatment from the media along with FBI agents doing their best to coerce Jewell into redeeming his reputation but in a suspense way that will make him guilty. In Jewell's case, it's one man against the world and he does his best to steel himself since he

being as a terrorist, who wanted to be a police officer but could never be one.

Though he had good intentions by discovering the bomb and giving warning to protect the people of Centennial Olympic Park with his bravery and right as a member of authority, unfortunately suspicion intruded those with larger

amounts of authority, using their positions to mislabeled Richard Jewell as a "white terrorist."

*Richard Jewell*, starring Paul Walter Hauser, Jon Hamm and Olivia Wilde is set to release on December 13.



Pictured from left to right: Sam Rockwell, Kathy Bates, and Paul Walter Hauser

## RECAP: TONI MORRISON

**T**he Literary Festival in honor of novelist Toni Morrison was held November 13. Staff, faculty, and students came together to remember Morrison with readings and open discussion. There were book and Kindle giveaways. The event was co-sponsored by The Gothic Times, Center for Leadership and Engagement, the Speicher-Rubin Women's Center for Equity and Diversity, the English Department and Black Freedom Society.



Sheila Kirven, Education Services Librarian, reads during the event



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# NJCU students Marie Albert and Andrea David are Mom & Daughter Freshmen

and tough times; good friends who are members of the Class of 2023, as well as Mom and Daughter.

On a recent afternoon in the Speicher-Rubin Women's Center for Equity and Diversity, located on the 3rd floor of the Gilligan Student Union Building, Albert and David shared how it feels to be Freshmen together, and what they hope to accomplish after they earn a bachelor's degree in their respective fields.

As a realtor in New Jersey and New York with a focus on Hudson and Bergen Counties, Albert decided to get a bachelor's degree to plan for the future of her family which includes her son Andrew, 18.

"My children keep me going," Albert said. "They're my determination."

Before attending NJCU, David spent a semester at Essex County College, then a summer in Paris studying the psychoanalysis of art. The experience was sponsored by the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE), a non-profit that promotes international education and exchange. David chose to go to NJCU this fall, because the school offers the Music Business and Art Therapy majors that interest her.

"I started visiting the campus this past summer," David said. "I decided NJCU is where I wanted to go."

"I would go with her to all the events," Albert said. "I applied for the heck of it."

"We wrote the essay together," David said.

At first, David says she felt apprehensive about attending college with her mom, but that's all changed. "It helps us to be more synchronized," she said. "We do things together outside school, too."

Extra-curricular activities for David include a passion for creating skin care treatments. She has her own



Picture left to right, Marie Albert & Andrea David

David Wilson

skin care line, Skin by Blouezz, which began with an early interest in essential oils. She once treated a skin blister with salve made with Tea Tree Oil, and saw positive results.

David branched out into other types of skin care treatments like shea butter moisturizer and massage oil made with hemp. Her website, <https://artbyblouezz.site> features info about her skincare line.

"They're organic products," David says. "I've been studying the benefits of essential oils since I was 12. I started making products when I had skin issues."

Along with skincare, David creates art – she's a photographer – and plans to work in the Arts by starting her own non-profit arts organization after she graduates from NJCU.

"I want it to be non-profit that will manage artists and consist of studio spaces and art," David said. "I want to give back to the community."

For spring semester 2020, Albert plans to change her major to Marketing with a minor in Psychology.

"I'm a realtor so Marketing will be the best thing for me," Albert said. "I need Marketing to help me build my business."

Both mom and daughter share an interest in organics. In her spare time, Albert makes terrariums, which are miniature, glass-enclosed greenhouses.

"I do it for fun," she said.

Both women acknowledge they have a close mother-daughter bond that helps them on their educational journey. David says it's empowering to have her mother on campus.

"She taught me to be fearless," David said. "She says, 'Do the things you want to do. Don't let people hold you back.'"

"It feels good to support her," Albert said.

Both women laugh recalling the times people at NJCU were surprised to learn that David and Albert are mother and daughter.

"They think we're friends or sisters," Albert smiles.



**Continued from page 1**

David Wilson

**M**ichael DiFeo is an interdisciplinary artist living in Jersey City. His work incorporates photography, animation, sound, video, and research. He teaches Film & TV Lighting and Digital Media in the Media Arts Department, works as a commercial photographer, and is currently an artist in residence at Art Beyond Sight.



David Wilson

**K**elly O'Grady is an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Women's and Gender Studies. Her research and teaching interests include queer theory, phenomenology, critical dance studies, and political theory. She is especially interested in the relationship of the physical, social, and energetic bodies to technology and the development of the self. Outside of NJCU, she teaches and trains in the traditional hot yoga lineage and is always excited about how yoga and academia inform one another.



## Did You Know?

- An adjunct is a part time professor on a limited contract that teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in an academic year.
- About 50 percent of classes at NJCU are taught by adjuncts.
- 58 percent of community colleges classes are taught by part-time faculty.
- A 2014 congressional report found that 89 percent of adjuncts teach at more than one college, 27 percent teach at three schools, and 13 percent did at four or more.

Credits: American Federation of Teachers, Washington Post.



David Wilson

**F**rancisco Botero is a Grammy/Latin Grammy Nominated Recording and Mix Engineer from Bogota, Colombia. He now resides in New York and works out of Studio G Brooklyn as well as being an adjunct professor for Media Arts at NJCU.

# JOIN OUR MEETINGS

The Gothic Times  
NJCU's student newspaper

If you're interested in  
becoming a writer or  
illustrator, join us!

**Every Wednesday  
at 2 p.m.**

Room 301, GSUB



**Can't make that day?**

Email the adviser at: [tpavisweil@njcu.edu](mailto:tpavisweil@njcu.edu)



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# NJCU'S NEWEST SPORTS!

Athletic Department Welcomes Wrestling and Golf to campus

by **Nelson R. Monterrosa**



**M**en's and Women's wrestling has arrived at NJCU. This exciting news is important because NJCU will be the first university in New Jersey to offer wrestling as a varsity sport for women. The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) has also announced Women's Wrestling as an emerging sport.

Elena Pirozhkova will be the new Women's wrestling coach when the official season starts next year. She will forever be remembered as the first-ever head women's wrestling coach. Pirozhkova is a US Olympian

with three gold medals under her belt. She has wrestled for Team USA for 10 years and will now lead our newest Women's wrestling team to the top.

Harry Turner is the official head coach of the Men's wrestling team. Turner was the recruiting coordinator for the Rutgers Scarlet Knights for two years prior to becoming NJCU's first ever men's wrestling coach. These new teams are history in the making for NJCU Athletics.

With the addition of these new sports, NJCU is expanding their women's athletic department and will have one more sport to offer which is Women's golf. The golf team has been added recently, just like the wrestling

team this Fall. The inaugural season will begin in Fall 2020. Both men and women will practice at the Skyway Golf Course here in Jersey City near Lincoln Park. Their home course will be at the Forest Hill and Galloping Hill Golf Courses in Kenilworth, NJ.

With all these new teams, the Knights' spirit will shine brighter on campus. Let's go and support our fellow Knight athletes. Let's GO! Gothic Knights to the end!



Photos Courtesy of njcugothicknights.com



On November 7th, the First Generation Celebration took place in the Gothic Lounge. "We are First: The Many Faces of First Gen," was sponsored by TLC, OSP, TRIO and SGA, and included students and faculty.



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"The women's wrestling team tryouts won't [be] too difficult," Pirozhkova says.

"It's not going to be 'run this 100-meter race'," Pirozhkova says. "It's not like that. I'll be judging the athlete overall—who they are and what they bring to the game. You need different types of people [on a team]. Everybody gets into wrestling in different ways. Some girls play other sports and decide to take up wrestling. Some do judo and martial arts. My friends did it to make friends."

Pirozhkova, who was born in Russia and came to the states when she was 3, grew up in Greenfield, Massachusetts. She earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Bridgeport and is currently studying for a P.h.D. in Bridgeport's Doctor of Chiropractic program. She resides in Jersey City with her husband, Alan Vera, a wrestler on Team USA.

While a student at Greenfield High School, Pirozhkova was 13 when she took up wrestling, often competing against boys in the wrestling ring. As a student athlete, Pirozhkova was a 2005 ASICS High School All-American Second Team member, and the 2005 U.S. Girls' Wrestling Association (USGWA) National Champion. She placed third in the 2003 and 2004 USGWA Nationals.

As a member of Team USA

World Championship and Olympic teams from 2008-16, Pirozhkova was an eight-time U.S. Open Champion. Winning the 2008 and 2010 University World Championship, she is a four-time Pan American Champ and a three-time Golden Grand Prix Finals Champ. In 2010, she was named USA Wrestling's Woman Wrestler of the Year.

Terry Steiner, USA Wrestling National Women's Coach, says that for 10 years, Pirozhkova was a mainstay on the Senior National Team.

"Elena is a past World champion with five World-level medals to her credit," Steiner says. "She earned every bit of those medals. She started as a kid and grew into a great champion for Team USA. There is no doubt in my mind that Elena will have a positive effect on the athletes she is around on a daily basis. I'm excited for Elena and also excited for New Jersey City University and the athletes she is coaching."

For two years, Pirozhkova has served as a board member for "Beat the Streets New York", a non-profit formed in 2005 to teach wrestling to New York City school children.

Pirozhkova's expertise in wrestling will be put to the test as she puts together the Women's Wrestling team next fall. She hopes to have a minimum of 10 women on the team the first year, and hopes to build a Junior Varsity team, too, which means Pirozhkova plans to have 20-30 NJCU

women wrestlers so they can compete in every weight class, she says.

"Ideally, I'm looking for a good wrestler, but at the end of the day, I'm looking for someone who has a certain attitude," Pirozhkova says. "Someone hard-working."

Women athletics across all sports might want to try out for the wrestling team, she says.

"If you're thinking there's something about wrestling that you're slightly interested in, I would recommend it," Pirozhkova says. "I would recommend it for self-confidence and better self-esteem, and the way you approach different challenges in life. Wrestling makes you feel more physically and mentally empowered."

For more information about the women's wrestling program, contact Elena Pirozhkova at:

[epirozhkova@njcu.edu](mailto:epirozhkova@njcu.edu).



Elena Pirozhkova tries to pin her opponent in the ring at the 2016 Olympics in London.



Olympic Wrestler Elena Pirozhkova lifts Michelle Obama at the London Summer Olympics 2016.



Elena Pirozhkova (l.) NJCU's new Women's Wrestling Team Head Coach



# MARIAH CAREY'S REIGN AS THE QUEEN OF CHRISTMAS

## How Her Legacy Goes Beyond The Season of Giving

by **Haresh Oudhnarine and Maryam Pervaiz**

**M**ariah Carey re-released her coveted fourth studio album *Merry Christmas* on November 1st in a special Deluxe Anniversary Edition to celebrate its 25th year of release.

On the re-release, Carey takes the world to heaven in her “Sugar Plum Fairy Introlude.” Bridging Disc 1 to Disc 2, it is the only completely new song to be added, in addition to the acapella version included later in the album.

Praised as the “Queen of Christmas” by many, her iconic song “All I Want For Christmas is You” can be heard nearly anywhere you go during the holiday season. On January 3rd, 2019, the song peaked at number 3 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart, the highest it has ever gotten. The song is also one of the best selling singles of all time with over 15 million copies sold.

Knowing that her holiday tunes were released since 1994, they still remain relevant today. Even radio stations start off the holiday season with “All I Want for Christmas Is You,” as their first Christmas song. Some even start as early as the day after Halloween.

On December 8th, 1994, at The Cathedral of Saint John the Divine, Mariah Carey performed songs from *Merry Christmas* for the first time live in concert. Six of the performances were featured on her re-released album's second disc. Raising over \$700,000 from the concert, the proceeds were

donated to the Fresh Air Fund, a non-profit organization which Mariah Carey loves to support. According to their website, the Fresh Air Fund “provides free summer vacations in the country to New York City children from low-income communities.”

In December 2018, it was reported that the song has broken Spotify's single day streaming record of all time. It has incomparable results of more than 10.8 million streams that

so much during her career, which spans 3 decades in length. Since 1990, after her first step into the music industry, she went on to release multiple chart breaking songs with her multi-octave vocal range. Carey has attained 18 number 1 singles on the Billboard Hot 100, the most for any solo female artist of all time.

Her single “One Sweet Day” featuring Boyz II Men spent 16 weeks at number 1 on the charts, making it the longest a song has ever remained there until this year.. Staging one of the greatest “comebacks” in 2005, Carey was able to return to her peak with the chart topping single “We Belong Together.” The song is even considered the song of the decade for the 2000s by Billboard.

Mariah Carey's talents can be described as beyond human. Her achievements, monumental. Today, recognition of her capabilities and successes

are far from associated with her name. Every ounce of talent in her left thumb is still there as it was in the 90s. She is so much more than just the “Queen of Christmas,” but for this season, that is who she will be.

As the month of November fades into view, Christmas becomes the talk of the city. Festive decorations and trees begin to appear in our local stores and colorful red and green lights become visible on every street you walk. And before you know it, you, as well as many others, will hear the melodious Queen of Christmas tell us the one thing she needs for Christmas.



Courtesy of Mariahcarey.com

day on December 24th. On September 9th, 2019, “All I Want For Christmas is You” became the first holiday song to surpass 500 million streams on Spotify.

The popularity of “All I Want For Christmas Is You,” has cemented the song as a Christmas classic in the record books. There is not one Christmas where this song has not been played since its release. The song itself does not represent holiday traditions, yet instead it has given a reminder to people that Christmas is about spreading love. It is one of the reasons as to why its fondly known and often played.

Beyond her dominance during the holidays, Mariah Carey has achieved

# GOTHIC TIMES ATTENDS NATIONAL JOURNALISM CONFERENCE

by **Kenise Brown**



**T**he Gothic Times attended the National College Media Convention in Washington, D.C. in late October/early November. About 1,600 students and advisers from across the U.S. came to the conference which featured workshops, on-site critiques, networking and a film festival. Students got to see Washington, including the MLK Memorial and the Lincoln Memorial. Interim Editor in Chief Kenise Brown and Opinion/Editorial Editor Nevin Perkins also got to go on a special tour of the Supreme Court.

Marty Baron, executive editor of The Washington Post, Abby Phillip, CNN White House correspondent, and Nina Totenberg, National Public Radio legal-affairs correspondent, were the main keynote speakers.

Students who become editors at the newspaper have the opportunity to go to national conventions and media workshops.

Pictured from left to right:

Interim Editor-in-Chief Kenise Brown, Opinion-Editorial Editor Nevin Perkins, and Advisor Theta Pavis

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