



THE GOTHIC TIMES

The Official Student Newspaper of New Jersey City University.

Volume LI | Issue 1

GothicTimes.net

February 2020

FLUCTUATING HEAT AND HOT WATER AT WEST CAMPUS VILLAGE DORM

NJCU's newest dormitory confronts issues after three years of opening

by **Maryam Pervaiz and Haresh Oudhnarine**



Phot by Haresh Oudhnarine

Throughout the past few months, some students living at NJCU's West Campus Village (WCV) dorms have complained about a lack of heat and hot water.

West Campus Village is NJCU's largest and most expensive dormitory, consisting of 427 beds as well as a music room, fitness center, conference room, and a game room.

Opened in the Fall 2016 semester, the building cost \$50 million, with a construction period of roughly a year.

Jasmine Shaw, a senior at WCV, said that there was no heat or hot water on November 14, 2019. She said on December 10, there was no hot water and the boilers were possibly down.

In response to these problems last semester (fall 2019), Jodi Bailey, associate vice president for Student Affairs, said in an email interview on

Continued on page 2

Opinion/Editorial

GUN VIOLENCE AT SCHOOL

Is This The Norm?

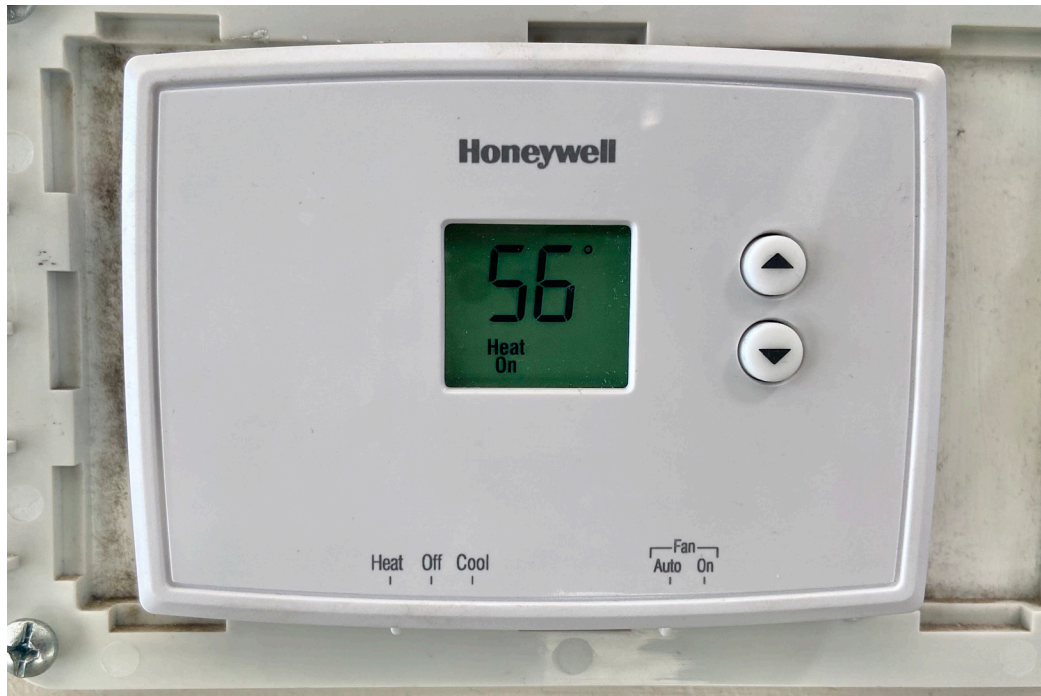
Page 4

Sports

KOBE BRYANT:

A Legend Gone Too Soon

Page 8

Continued from page 1

Phot by Haresh Oudhnarine

January 14, 2020, “For the current situation, unfortunately, both of our boilers have broken at two different points in time where parts need to be ordered. There has been one boiler operating at a time but I was told that the new parts were due earlier this month and were being worked on.”

Marcella Newkirk, a freshman, who dorms at WCV says, “I had a heat problem last semester [Fall 2019] but it was fixed.”

In the first Student Government Association (SGA) meeting of 2020, there were a few issues brought up about the WCV dorm. Some students expressed that the building was usually too cold. Another issue brought up was that sometimes the temperatures says 50 degrees. However, when a student tries to turn the temperature up, it goes back to 50 degrees.

Problems in the 2019-2020 School Year

Issues with hot water and heating became prevalent during the fall semester of 2019. Two buildings on the main campus, Karnoutsos Hall and Fries Hall, also experienced problems with heating during this time frame last

semester.

Jennifer Luciano, assistant dean of Residence Life and Student Engagement, said in a November interview that the issues have not been ongoing as long as it may feel for the students. “We have two boilers in the building and that is what sustains the heat throughout the building. Right now we have one boiler that is down so they’re working on repairing that. What that means is that there is one boiler that is working but it’s a lot on the load. We have heat... but the water may not always be hot throughout the day.”

Andre Pearson, associate vice president of Building Services, further clarifies, “There are two boilers and one has been repaired and functioning properly for some time now. As far as I know, there have not been any recent hot water issues. The repair of the second boiler is scheduled to be completed this week [January 12 - January 18, 2020] and will provide redundancy in case one boiler fails.”

Alexandra Kaisto, an exchange student said, “While the water is running, it usually takes a long time for it to become hot.” Kaisto’s heating in her room is sufficient.

Roslyn-Eleanor Abotsi, a freshman who recently moved into WCV for the spring semester, said the water has not been hot to her liking. She said, “The water never gets HOT hot.” Abotsi explains that the water feels like it has been running for a while at the end of a long shower and cannot get any hotter; except it is during the entire shower that it feels that way.

Newkirk said there have still been hot water issues at the start of the spring semester. She said, “I

did not have hot water last night or this morning [from January 21 to January 22.]”

Shaw confirms there was no heat on January 27 into the morning of January 28. In addition, she said that there was a power outage at WCV during the night of January 25.

An Issue Since 2016

Hot water problems arose back in 2016 when the building was first opened. An email was sent out on February 6, 2017, to the dorming students from Bailey, who at the time was assistant dean of Residence Life and Student Engagement. The email talks about hot water and the university’s solution. It reads in part, “The University was made aware of student concerns regarding intermittent hot water within the West Campus Village residence hall in late fall of 2016. These issues were addressed by the University’s facilities team who performed water temperature checks. In some instances, the water temperature was found to be approximately 80 degrees (NJCU sets its hot water temperature at approximately 115 degrees).”

In the email, Bailey said, “Beginning this evening WCV students have the option to shower in CO-OP and beginning tomorrow morning you are welcome to also shower in the Athletic Center.”

This presented a significant inconvenience for dorming students, having to travel to a completely separate building to take a shower in addition to its occurrence during a peak

Continued on page 3

Continued from page 2

winter month. Equally as important, the dorming hall only opened roughly six months prior to this incident.

Bailey said at the time that “fluctuating hot water in the building” was a result of a faulty valve. The issues in 2017 took a while to fix but were eventually resolved.

In an email interview, alumna Kristen Hazzard said she experienced lack of heat and hot water while she attended NJCU. “I did have a problem

with both heat and hot water. When the hot water issue happened, I was a junior (2017-18) and as for the heat issue, that was occurring on and off for the 3 years that I was there.”

2020 Update

Jodi Bailey explained in an email interview on January 14, 2020, that the issues from 2017 are not related to issues from 2019. She said, “In 2017, there were issues with the water and how it was distributed throughout the

building. The facilities staff had to bring in a specialist to install sensors on the pipes in order to push the hot water to places that it was not circulating to.”

On January 22, Jennifer Luciano confirmed that both of the boilers in WCV were completely repaired and that heating issues throughout the building have been mostly resolved. She did note that the heating in the lobby area was still having issues, with the thermometer reading 56 degrees Fahrenheit.

Letter to the Editor

To Whom It May Concern,

Throughout the fall 2019 semester at West Campus Village students have not had proper heating, hot water, and now wifi that goes in and out. As you would imagine our frustration, functioning and carrying on about our day is extremely difficult if we cannot simply shower or sleep with any proper heating. Students pay enormous amounts of money from \$6,271 to \$7,871 per semester which adds up to around \$15,742 per year. Regardless of having one heater fixed, having proper planning and enough supplies to provide healthy environments is something crucial that students should be able to rely on. This is also not the first time within the past couple of years this has happened.

By sending this message students are asking that something is to be done as well as spread awareness of the situation at the dorms. The new dorms are a nice expansion of NJCU and we support it, however, when issues such as this arise, we worry. While we are grateful for all of the opportunities NJCU has provided for us, students ask that NJCU take accountability for their actions and that they fix and resolve these issues that can be harmful to the student's physical health and well being. Students look to the faculty and staff to provide a meaningful education and a safe place to learn and grow, and they ask that you speak your mind and support their voice.

We want to grow together as a community.

Thank you for your time.

Best,

NJCU West Campus Students

Jasmine Shaw, Nermeen Girgis, Ghalia Drihmi

Gun Violence at School: Is This The Norm?

by **Diana Sanchez**

As an educator I have plenty to worry about on a day-to-day basis. I need to have papers and pencils ready for my students, and my lesson plans must be up to date. I shouldn't have to fear for my safety, as well as the safety of the kids around me. How can we create a safe space to learn for the kids, let alone live, if we continue to let lax gun laws overrun our country? I am all for protecting our second amendment rights, but there needs to be stricter background checks---- something, anything that needs to get done. Shootings like these shouldn't be common anywhere, and teachers and students should not have to constantly fear that their lives are endangered.

The shooting that happened in the Greenville neighborhood in Jersey City at the JC Kosher Supermarket, had me fear for my former colleagues. As an alumna of NJCU I couldn't help but worry and wonder if my fellow professors, friends, and colleagues were okay.

What if one of them left the campus at the wrong time? Sometimes that is all it takes.

The shooting initially started in the Bayview Cemetery around 12:30, about a mile away from the supermarket. Jersey City's detective Joseph Seals was shot and killed. Detective Seals had served the force for over 15 years. He was tragically taken from his wife and five children. Afterward, the shooting took the lives of three innocent bystanders: Mindel Ferencz (who ran the store with her husband), Miguel Douglas Rodriguez, an employee originally from Ecuador, and Moshe Deutch, a rabbinical student from Brooklyn.

I was shocked and concerned when I heard that the private school

just across from the market, Sacred Heart, had bullet holes in its windows. No one was hurt, however, and officers responded from a block away and kept the students and staff inside and out of harm's way. Forty two other schools were under lockdown as well. Olivia Durham, a volunteer with the Hudson County Students Demand Action, put things into perspective on their website:

"Just six months ago, Jersey City Students Demand Action joined community partners and marched down Martin Luther King Drive to honor victims and survivors of gun violence. Today that same street was the scene of a tragedy... In a city where gun violence is an unfortunate reality, events like this interrupt our education and put a cloud of fear over our everyday lives. We don't have to live like this."

Immediately, I began to think about the students I am servicing. We had a lockdown right after a Thanksgiving parade. My students also had a recent scare long before I began subbing in their class. On September 26th a bomb threat forced them all to evacuate to the nearest West New York Elementary school. Luckily, it was a false alarm.

Emily Jabbour, a NJ volunteer from the organization Moms Demand Action: For Gun Sense in America is quite vocal on the organization's website about gun violence in Jersey city; she makes a great point when she says:

"Jersey City is too often the scene of gun violence that doesn't make the news...and once again, our city was devastated by horrific acts of violence that will traumatize those who live, work, and go to school in our community. Students yet again experienced the trauma of their schools feeling unsafe because of the

school lockdowns throughout the city. Something has to change."

The organization's website states that on average, there is a shooting every day in cities like Trenton, Jersey city, and Newark. There needs to be something done, not just to keep Jersey City residents safe, but the U.S as a whole needs to rethink gun control.

What if we lived in a world where teachers and students didn't have to worry so much about lockdown drills and instead, in a world where teachers and students lived in a hospitable learning environment. We should ask ourselves: why isn't this the norm?

Editorial Note:

NJCU Alumna, Diana Sanchez, was first an Op-Ed editor for the Gothic Times from June 2017 to February 2018 before ascending to the role of News Editor until May 2018. She won the Best News Story in 2018 for her article: "Ambitious West Campus in Progress" and G.O.A.T during her last semester at NJCU. She is currently a substitute 4th grade teacher at Harry L. Bain Elementary School in West New York a Graduate Research Assistant, and a master's student at Montclair State University. She is pursuing a Masters of Arts in Teaching with a concentration on English and students with disabilities. The skills and abilities obtained by working at The Hub: Centralized Tutoring Center and the Gothic Times landed her the opportunity to teach English composition abroad for two months in Brazil in 2018, and in the subsequent summer after that, she was the head language arts teacher and tutor for a summer learning program at Iprime, a private academy in Palisades Park.

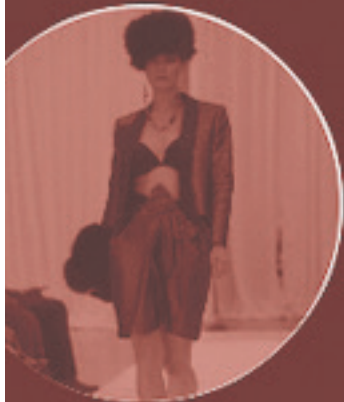


American Heart Association

Life Is Why We Give™



Make sure to RSVP as the fashion show is a fundraising event produced by NJCU alumni. It will be located near NJCU Business School. Scan the QR code for a discount on tickets to the show!



JERSEY CITY

**FASHION
FORWARD**

**SAVE A HEART
FASHION SHOW**

POWERED BY:

BAR
accessories for women

**** New Date**

2.22.20 • 5:00pm

HARBORSIDE ATRIUM

210 HUDSON ST. JERSEY CITY, NJ 07302

FOR TICKETS:

SAVEAHEART.EVENTBRITE.COM

Acupuncture
CENTER

WWW.NJACUPUNCTURECENTER.COM

HARBORSIDE JC

sheen
MAGAZINE

www.jcfashionforward.com | @jcfashionforward | director@jcfashionforward.com

Student Government Brings The Heat When Discussing Heating, Parking, Scholarships, and More

by **Ivana Estime**

The Student Government Association (SGA) held its first meeting of 2020 on January 27th. Many issues were discussed including heating and parking concerns. Ricky Cruz, SGA president talked about concerns students have brought up about heating. Students said that rooms in Vodra Hall have been too hot. One student said there is concern, especially for those with asthma. Other students said they're distressed about West Campus Village being too cold. It was said some thermostats will not go above 50 degrees in some cases. Students said that when they try to raise it, the temperature reading would always drop back down to 50. In an attempt to address this problem, SGA announced the creation of a heating committee.

On the issue of parking, Cruz said that Lot 6 was almost closed this semester but SGA had fought in order to prevent that from happening. Lot 6 is on West Campus near Route 440. Cruz explained that according to the administration, Lot 6 is only heavily used between certain hours. Last semester, it was announced that Lot 6 would close due to ongoing construction at West Campus.

SGA announced that scholarships for the 2020 semester

were successfully awarded. Almost \$20,000 was awarded to students. On February 3rd, a new advisor will be starting their duties with Student Government. Executive Vice President of SGA, Sunky Chang announced Green and Gold Day will be on February 3rd from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. The flag raising for Green and Gold Day will be at the front lawn at 11 a.m. Meet the Greeks will be taking place on February 13th from 6 to 9 PM. There will also be a Karaoke Night on February 10th from 6 to 9 p.m. at MPR B. There will be free food and activities. Vice President of Internal Affairs, Richard Salmeron introduced Commuter Connection, a workshop which will provide insight for commuters. Safety, resident life, recycling, and more will be addressed at this meeting.

Students were also updated on changes made and renovations that will begin to take place on campus. Many committees have been put in place to make considerable changes to campus. A number of those committees include the President's Committee, Senate Committee, Heating Committee, Public Safety Committee, Finance Committee, and many more. SGA Manager,

Jeffrey Dessource reported that there have also been many renovations approved for club spaces in GSUB. A lactation space, for mothers to breastfeed their children, is planned for construction on the 3rd floor of GSUB. The Center of Community Engagements moved to the 2nd floor of GSUB and Life and Housing has been moved from West Campus to GSUB. There are also new ball gender bathrooms on the second floor of GSUB. Due to complaints of limited menus on Fridays at GSUB, Subway will now open on Fridays. On February 3rd, a new Advisor will be starting their duties with Student Government.



Photo by Ivana Estime

An Art Opening Reception

Uprooted by Adebunmi Gbadebo

Date: Feb. 19 from 5 PM - 8 PM

At The Visual Arts Gallery



Photo courtesy of IMDb.com

Sonic's Race To Save The Box Office

by **Bryan Vega**

when Director Jeff Fowler tweeted in early May, "Thank you for the support. And the criticism. The message is loud and clear... you aren't happy with the design & you want changes. It's going to happen. Everyone at Paramount & Sega are fully committed to making this character the BEST he can be...." This was an immense victory in the eyes of fans who were sure that their cries for a better design would go unheard.

In fact, this was a bold move by Paramount which proceeded to push back the film's November release date to February of 2020. The company wasn't done yet as a new trailer hit the internet November 12th. The "Blue Blur" shone on small screens everywhere in all his glory, much to the satisfaction of fans who'd called for action following his first appearance.

This massive turn around in interest is sure to allow a much larger payoff for Paramount, which has been rumored to have gone over the film's original \$90 million budget by an estimated \$35 million. While various sources debate the validity of these claims, it is clear that the studio and Fowler seem to care about the product's fan base as an attempt was made to please them in the first place.

In light of this, fans are calling for mass attendance of the film to support the animators, VFX artists, and other production staff members who have worked painstakingly to give them what they asked for. And who knows, perhaps this will be the push needed for other studios to follow suit when it comes to giving the people what they want.

Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker

by **Darren Greene**

Star Wars episode 9, The Rise Of Skywalker, was directed by J.J. Abrams and is the finale of the much talked about sequel trilogy.

When it is discovered that the evil Emperor Palpatine has not died at the hands of Vader, the Rebels spring into action. Lead characters Finn and Poe lead the resistance against the First Order while Rey makes plans to confront villains Kylo Ren and the Emperor.

This movie had amazing graphics and a compelling storyline for the new characters. The filmmakers ended the late Carrie Fisher's Princess Leia storyline the best way they could with what they had from the previous movies.

Also the return of Ian McDiarmid as the Emperor definitely brought clarity to the trilogy and was fun to see his character back on film. There's no doubt that this movie looks aesthetically pleasing.

I think the movie was a little sloppy when it comes to storytelling. The movie spent too much time making up for the mistakes made in The Last Skywalker episode. There were too many scenes that were not needed. I spent more time trying to figure out what has happened after the events in episode 8 than enjoying this movie. There were moments that mimic scenes in other Star Wars films built for nostalgia, but it failed to deliver.



Photo courtesy of IMDb.com

There were also sequences that were off as it lacked emotion with the character interactions. The scene where Rey and Kylo Ren confront each other in battle, the scene was jaw dropping, as it was visually arresting. However, there was no feeling behind this fight. Star Wars movies are known for its good character development and to not see this in the final episode of the saga, makes the entire movie lackluster.

KOBE BRYANT: A Legend Gone Too Soon

by **Tyler Brown Jr**

When I heard the news in late January about Kobe Bryant, his daughter Gigi, and seven other victims, I thought to myself, “There is no way Kobe is gone, this must be fake news.” I was speechless, I didn’t know how to feel and didn’t know what to say. I felt like I lost someone very close to me because I watched Kobe growing up as a kid. He was my favorite player and that’s all I ever talked about when it comes to debates and arguments. During the 05-06 and 07-08 season, Kobe led the league in scoring with averages of 35.4 and 31.6. The man could score at will and was determined to put up numbers.



Gigi Bryant, 13, and Kobe Bryant, 41 - Instagram

Early Life

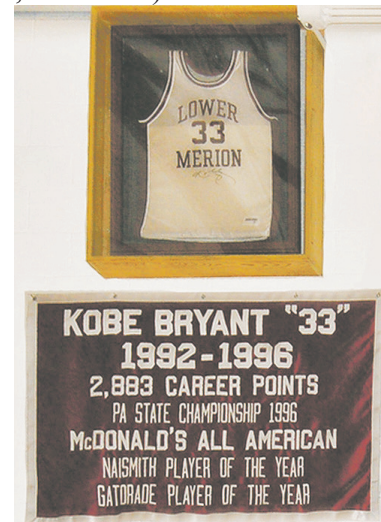
Kobe Bean Bryant was born August 23, 1978 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. His father, Joe Bryant, was a professional basketball player that played for the Philadelphia 76ers and his mother is Pamela Cox Bryant. Kobe’s father left the NBA and moved with his family to Italy where he continued to play in the Italian League. Little Bryant adapted to the new lifestyle and learned to speak Spanish and Italian fluently. As a child, soccer was the sport he practiced the most while he was in Italy. In 1991, the family returned to the United States and Kobe then attended Lower Merion Institute. At first, the team didn’t perform well, only winning 4 out of only 20 games. Then the team started to improve as Kobe was the school all time leading scorer with 2,883 points surpassing players such as Wilt Chamberlain and Carlin Waley.

Success on the Court

Thanks to his performance, USA Today and Parade Magazine gave him the Naismith Prep Player of the Year Award and was included in the McDonald’s All-American Team. Kobe Bryant’s senior year he averaged 30.8 points, 12 rebounds, 6.5 assists, 4 steals and 3.8 blocks per game, achieved the state title with a record of 31-3. After finishing high school, Bryant decided to go straight to the NBA and not attend college. In the 1996 draft, he was the 13th pick in the first round and landed with the Charlotte Hornets. He ended up getting traded to the Lakers for Vlade Divac, a center for the Los Angeles Lakers. During his rookie season, Kobe had injuries that prevented him from showing his full potential such as the flu and a hip injury, but in his second season he performed well.

His performance was so good that he started to get compared to

Michael Jordan. When they played against each other, Bryant had 33 and Jordan had 36. In 2000, Kobe married Vanessa Lane and had two daughters: Natalia Diamante (2003) and Gianna Maria-Onore (2006). Before Shaquille O’ Neal departed for Miami in 2005, the Lakers had been NBA champions in three consecutive seasons (2000, 2001, and 2002).



Bryant's retired high school jersey.
Wikimedia Commons

Black Mamba

Kobe Bryant's work ethic and competitiveness is definitely unmatched from any other player we've seen in the league. Black Mamba, which is his nickname, is a venomous snake and earned the name due to the type of mindset he had. Kobe's mindset was to embarrass whoever he was going against each and every game. He was a dangerous man when stepping on the court because you didn't know what he was going to bring and just like the snake it's, dangerous and can poison you. Night in and night out he gave it 110% and left it out on the court. From the way he walks and talks it was like watching another Michael Jordan on the court because he studied everything about him. When you talk about the Michael Jordan of our generation, Kobe's name was always mentioned because their play styles were just alike.

In his career, Bryant was the youngest player to reach 10,000 points in 193 days. He was also the first player to score 45 points in four consecutive games.

In the 2002 All-Star game, Bryant was the most valuable player amongst all the players. In 2003, he became the first player to hit 12 three pointers and two years later against the Dallas Mavericks he scored 62 points in three quarters. On January 22, 2006, Kobe scored an unbelievable 81 points against the Toronto Raptors which is the second most points scored in an NBA game. Later on in his career he started suffering serious injuries such as rotator cuff injury and even suffered from a torn achilles. At this point, I knew it was only a matter of time that retirement was coming.

Retirement

In November 2015, he announced his retirement in a poem on the Players Tribune website titled "Dear Basketball". The film was five minutes and twenty seconds and it

debuted at the 2017 Tribeca Film Festival. The film won an Academy Award for Best Animated Short Film at the 2018 Oscars. In Kobe Bryant's final NBA game which was April 13, 2016, he ended it on a great note. He finished the game with 60 points against the Utah Jazz and came away with the victory. It was a game to remember and a good performance to a Hall of Fame career that Kobe has.

Bryant also partnered with the non-profit After School All Stars as a part of Kobe & Vanessa Bryant family foundation. Kobe also has his own summer camp called Kobe Bryant Basketball Camp, which is located in Santa Barbara, California.

Aftermath of Death

His death left the world stunned, speechless and it was heartbreaking to hear. Fans were in grief and tears as the news spread about Bryant's death. Even people that were not serious fans could only feel heartbreak and sorrow. Bryant impacted many fans and the game of basketball in such a great way. Children growing up looked to Kobe as the greatest and were determined to follow his footsteps. His legacy will go on and will be remembered as one of the greatest players to step in the NBA. Kobe Bryant was a role model, father, friend, and a loving husband. Everyone wanted to be like Kobe when they were growing up. His work ethic, love and determination for the game of



Bryant scoring against the Wizards.

Wikimedia Commons

basketball is like nothing we've ever seen before. Kobe was determined to be great no matter what it takes and didn't let anyone outwork him.

**As we mourn his death,
Kobe Bryant's career is
one to be remembered
and he will be loved
and missed.**



Memorial remembering Bryant and his daughter Gigic , outside the Staples Center.

Wikimedia Commons

Career Lifetime Achievements

by **Nevin Perkins**

17 NBA Player of the Month
 18 Time NBA All-Star
 15 All-NBA
 12 All-Defensive Team
 32 NBA Player of the Week
 2 NBA Finals Most Valuable Player
 4 NBA All-Star Most Valuable Player
 2 Olympic Gold Medal
 1 NBA Most Valuable Player
 1 All-Rookie Team
 1 Oscar

Significant Season & Career Highs

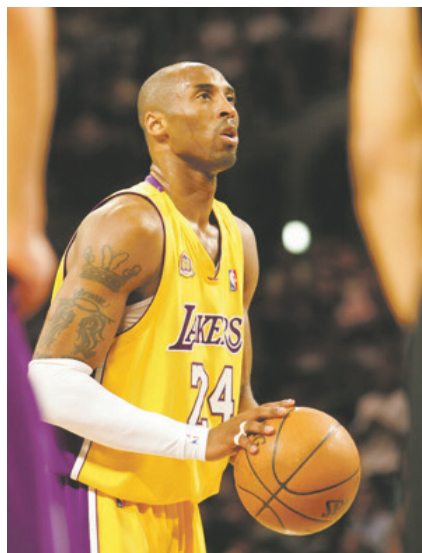
Points: 81 vs Toronto on JAN 22 2006
 Rebounds: 16 vs Toronto on JAN 24 2010
 Assists: 17 vs Cleveland on JAN 15 2015
 Steals: 7 vs Utah on FEB 13 2006
 Field Goals Made: 28 vs Toronto on JAN 22 2006
 Free Throws Made: 23 vs New York on JAN 31 2006
 vs Cleveland on JAN 30 2001
 Three Pointers Made: 12 vs Seattle on JAN 07 2003
 Blocks: 5 vs Charlotte on FEB 02 2001
 vs Philadelphia on FEB 20 2000
 vs Vancouver on DEC 11 1999



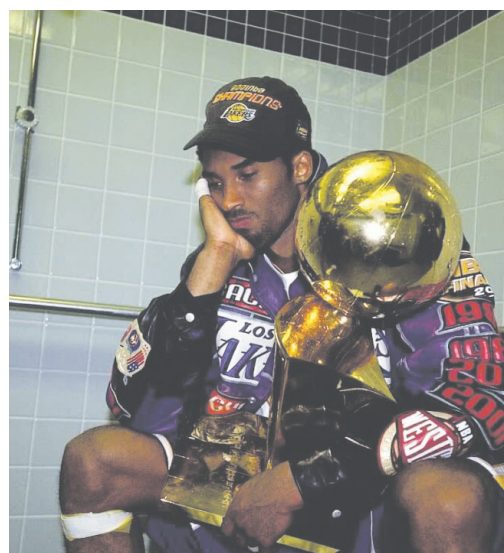
Shea Huening / Flickr



Stefanoaica Ionut/Flickr



WDPG / Flickr



Instagram



WDPG / Flickr

The Gothic Times would like to also give respect to the rest of the victims and send condolences to the Altobelli, Chester, Mauser, and Zobayan Families along with friends and those who are still deeply affected by this tragedy.



John Altobelli
Photo courtesy of Twitter



Keri Altobelli
Photo courtesy of Facebook



Alyssa Altobelli
Photo courtesy of Facebook



Sarah Chester
Photo courtesy of Facebook



Payton Chester
Photo courtesy of Facebook



Christina Mauser
Photo courtesy of Facebook



Ara Zobayan
Photo courtesy of Facebook

NJCU's 31st Annual M.L.K. Day Brunch

by **Nevin Perkins**



Photo by Jeremy Ball

Students, staff, faculty, politicians, and members of the community poured into NJCU's Gilligan Student Union Multipurpose room on Wednesday, January 22 to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. NJCU's 31st annual M.L.K. day brunch, which serves not only as a day of recognition but one of service, began at 10am. Warm hearts gathered, conversed, and enjoyed the catered spread.

Those present included Dr. Reverend Legay, president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Jersey City branch, Councilwoman Denise Ridley of Ward A, and keynote speaker Assemblywoman of the 31st district

Angela Mcknight. The theme of this year's brunch was Lift Every Voice: Standing At Times Of Challenge And Controversy. Lift Every Voice, for those who are unaware is the Black American National Anthem.

To officially start the program, NJCU alumna delivered a truly moving rendition of the anthem which left the crowd standing, momentarily in awe. The program was hosted by Interim Director of the Lee Hagan Africana

Studies Center, Karen D. Morgan. Two students who have exhibited exemplary academic excellence, were awarded the M.L.K. scholarship presented by Superintendent of Jersey City Board of Education, Franklin Walker. Janea Reed, a senior majoring in Business Management, who finds time in between working and attending school full time, to serve as a Youth and Engagement Leader at her local church was one of the recipients. The awarded student, Yaneke Robinson is currently majoring in Biology while holding a 3.8 GPA and Vice President of NJCU's chapter of the American Society of Biochemist and Biological Sciences.

Let us acknowledge and celebrate the fact that both recipients were Black women. In fact, Black women were the powerhouse of the program. The host,

Dr. Morgan, the keynote speaker Ms. Mcknight and one of the honorees of the M.L.K. JR. Community Service Award Tamara Cunnigham. Ms. Cunnigham is the Assistant Vice President of Global Initiatives here at NJCU, one of her most recent accomplishments is securing the opportunity for five Black male students to study abroad in Ghana in July 2020. Upon hearing this news the crowd shook with applause, understanding the magnitude of this achievement. Until now, NJCU has yet to create an educational partnership anywhere on the continent of Africa. This is most certainly a step forward in the direction of progressive. Speaking of steps, the second recipient of the Community Service Award mentioned a pivotal step she'd like to see in NJCU's road towards becoming a better environment.

Dr. Jennifer Musial is no stranger to advocating for change. She works closely with her students in the Department of Women and Gender studies to ensure that she is cultivating young minds who will go out and become active members in the fight for change. During her acceptance speech she took the time to advocate a push for the retention of Black students, something that has been an issue for some time. The crowd, which had been engaged during the entire program roared again with approval. Denise Ridley, to the great approval of audience, delivered brief closing remarks.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a fierce advocate for Civil Rights. His legacy continues to serve as inspiration for those of us who are working towards a better world. We here at NJCU will continue to honor his lifetime's work by being the change we wish to see.

New Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education with focus on Infant Toddler Services

Learn to provide quality care to infants and toddlers!

You can do this by pursuing a bachelor's degree in early childhood education
with the Infant Toddler Services option!

This option does not include the New Jersey teacher certification requirements.

You do not have to pass the PRAXIS CORE or the Early Childhood PRAXIS!

Eligible for New Jersey Infant Toddler Credential upon completion.

Requirements for Admission

2.5 GPA

AA or AS in early childhood preferred

ALL EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
GRADUATE COURSES ARE ONLINE!

For more information, please call 201-200-2114 or email InfantToddlerProgram@njcu.edu.



MEETINGS
OUR
JOIN
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



@thegothictimes
gothictimes@gmail.com
www.gothictimes.net

Track and Field: Record Breakers

by **Zoe Viant**



Photo by Cliff Prescod

NJCU's Track and Field team has come a long way and made outstanding progress since their debut season in December 2018.

Shania Robinson, a junior in Fine Arts and Crafts, broke the university's record in the 300-meter dash with a time of 44.01 in a meet earlier in December. She began her athletic career at Henry Snyder High School, just across the street from NJCU. Outside of sports, Robinson likes to spend time with her teammates and family. She has interned at the 2019 Golf Tournament held in Jersey City as well. You can catch Robinson around campus taking pictures, dancing at our university functions, and even modeling.

"It's kind of hard to juggle sports and school," She said. "Especially when you have a track meet every weekend and sometimes during the week for nine months straight. You would be too tired to get your schoolwork done and sometimes you would have to do it at a track meet." Robinson said there is a lot of pressure because as an athlete, one would have to maintain a certain GPA in order to stay on the team.

Her aspiration as a student is to get better grades, however, her world will always revolve around running. Shania hopes to break more records and after college she wants to go to the Olympics.

Another record breaker in the track team is Jose Recinos, a sophomore Marketing major from Union City. Jose Recinos broke NJCU's 5000-meter dash and 8000-meter dash event this past December as well. Recinos said, "All the summer mileage and workouts I had done up until that

point had finally paid off. I would've never thought I was going to be able to beat the school record in my first year. I honestly thank my teammates and my coach for getting me that far this past cross-country season."

Recinos' life outside of sports consists of spending time with his friends, doing homework for classes, or at home playing video games. Students and athletes that go to the university's gym, John J. Moore Athletics and Fitness Center, might recognize his friendly face from working at the front desk. Since he does not live on campus he drives a 30 to 40 minute commute to and from campus almost six days a week.

He said, "Being a student athlete is great. The support we get from the athletic department is amazing and being around my teammates is always a great time. However, it can be stressful at times." Trying to keep up with his job, school, and athletics is a workload. He tries to stay focused by remaining positive, sleeping well, eating healthy, and trusting the process. Recinos hopes to break more records as the season advances.



Photo by Cliff Prescod

HAIR WE ARE AGAIN



What: Hair We Are Again

Where: GSUB MPR A

When: February 21st,
2 pm—4 pm



If you are a person with a disability and require accommodations, please call 201-200-3189.

**Are you a Business major/minor and seeking
an internship or job?**

Visit the BRAND NEW Career Services database at:

www.njcu.edu/career-resources and log-in w/ your NJCU credentials!

Questions? Contact: njcusobinternships@njcu.edu

MEET THE STAFF

by **Kenise Brown**



The Gothic Times attended a winter training in mid January to improve Journalism skills. In picture from left to right: David Wilson, Monica Ortiz, Keion-Mehki Jackson, Sandra Mendez, Ivana Estime, Darren Greene, Zoe Viant, Sally Deering, Kenise Brown, and Haresh Oudhnarine.

Download our App
Gothic Times



Listen to our Podcast:
The Round Table



Follow us:
@TheGothicTimes



The Gothic Times 2020-2021

Kenise Brown (kbrown8@njcu.edu)..... Editor-in-Chief
Aminah Chaudhary (aminahnawaz88@gmail.com).....Production Manager
Nevin Perkins (nperkins@njcu.edu).....Opinion/Editorial Editor
Sandra Mendez (smendez4@njcu.edu).....Arts & Entertainment Editor
Zoe Viant (zviant@njcu.edu).....Sports Editor
Darren Greene (dgreene@njcu.edu).....Podcast Producer
David Wilson (davidwilson764@ymail.com)Photographer
Theta Pavis (tpavisweil@njcu.edu).....Advisor

GSUB, 2039 Kennedy Blvd. Room 301
Jersey City, NJ 07305
201-200-3575
GothicTimes.net