By Pauline Marzana, Irene Gjoka & Arjun Nagpal

John Jay’s Got Talent...

Even a rainy cold day couldn’t stop John Jay students from showing off their talents. On Feb. 23, students and faculty got together at the Gerald W. Lynch Theater for the second annual John Jay’s Got Talent show.

Music/vocal, spoken word/stand up comedy, and dance were the three categories that the contestants could participate in. The grand prize was a trophy, along with a chance to perform at the college. The winners would have their pictures taken and would be featured in the college newspaper. The contestants were all talented students ranging from poets, to comedians, and dancers.

The show consisted of a master of ceremonies, who introduced the contestants and kept the audience entertained. The audience was also able to vote for their favorite performer by clapping and dancing along with the contestants.

The audience was excited as the performers took the stage, ready for their performances, which was not always easy. While the audience was entering the theater, the contestants were behind the stage getting ready for their performances, some fighting the nervousness while others were waving with adrenaline. The show started off with Travis giving a welcome speech to the audience and getting the crowd pumped up for the show.

The show consisted of a lot of screaming fans who kept the night entertaining as they danced and sang along with the contestants. Rosie Lara was in the dance category and performed traditional Spanish salsa, which had a few guys whistling while she danced. When Sherry Gibson performed a solo “Chain of Fools,” everyone could be seen clapping and singing the song.

“It was the first show that I came to see at John Jay, and I had so much fun being able to have fun and connect with the performers,” said Ashlee Tobon, a freshman at John Jay. Tobon said her favorite performer was Shannon Landy. Landy, who referred herself as “Bubbles,” was disqualified after making a joke about the police trying to arrest her for having crack, which she showed the audience was her behind.

José Rodriguez, a sophomore, was angry with the judges and said, “They shouldn’t have kicked her out; she didn’t deserve it.”

**What’s in a name?**

By Trisha Gangadeen

Now that the college is broadening its educational scope with the introduction of new liberal arts majors, such as Gender Studies, Global Studies, Economics and English, a few members of the John Jay community are questioning whether changing the college’s name would be suitable.

Talk of dropping the “Criminal Justice” ending in the school’s title began when Jeremy Travis became president five years ago.

“Ever since I arrived as president in Fall 2004 I have heard people talk about changing the name. It has always been a small number of people, not a broad-based proposal,” Travis said in an interview in the fall. “I am not aware of any current proposal to change the name. As to my own position, I do not favor changing the name. We have a distinctive mission, and our name reflects that mission.”

Referring to the new majors and the phasing out of the associates program, Travis said in his State of the College address last November that “the new majors are part of John Jay’s ‘fundamental transformation.’” He also added that additional majors in Philosophy, Law and Society are soon to come. But despite these new majors, John Jay’s mission of educating for justice still remains.

Provost Jane Bowers said, “It is just a rumor, probably reflecting the fear of some faculty that the president would lead us away from our mission of ‘educating for justice.’ Quite the opposite is true, however.”

This topic is still divided amongst John Jayers. Some say it would make sense to change the school’s name. “Changing the name to simply John Jay College would help to shed the stigma that John Jay is just a ‘cop school’,” said Shaheen Wallace, a Political Science major and president of Student Government.

With many people still referring to the college as a “cop school,” some say that it is understandable why others fear that the name may deter potential students who do not aspire to be cops from coming to John Jay.

To the surprise of some students, changing the name of the college to

**John Jay pros “rate” second highest in U.S.**

By Norhan Basuni

John Jay College may have its own searing, but that had no effect on John Jay’s students making sure their opinions were known about their professors on RateMyProfessor.com, the largest online destination for professor ratings.

On March 3, RateMyProfessors.com announced its 2009-10 rankings for the highest rated college professors and faculties. John Jay had the second-highest rated faculty among all four years universities in the nation, after Southeastern Louisiana University. In addition, John Jay was also the only City University of New York college to make the Top 25 list.

The website uses a five-point scale as well as a binary scoring system for students to rate professors, according to a press release. John Jay’s high ratings were for its overall faculty after individual professor ratings were factored together.

So, what exactly does this tell us about the prominence of John Jay and the professors who teach here?

“Each year, the RateMyProfessors.com rankings shine a light on the incredible work taking place at institutions across the country,” Carla DiMarco, vice president of university relations for mtvU, which owns and operates RateMyProfessor.com, said in the press release. “These lists directly reflect the voices of the students who are on campus, in these classrooms.”

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**ELECTIONS**

**Haiti Event**

**Commentary**

**New Theater**

**“Avatar”**

**Basketball**

Continued on Page 6

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**What’s in a name?**

Continued on Page 6

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**John Jay pros “rate” second highest in U.S.**

Continued on Page 6

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**By Pauline Marzana, Irene Gjoka & Arjun Nagpal**

**By Trisha Gangadeen**

**By Norhan Basuni**
# College Calendar: March 2010

## Women's History Month

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<td>Poetry Club's Animal Rights Benefit</td>
<td>NH Lobby, 10-3p Debate 1212NH, 3-6p</td>
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<td>NH Lobby, 10-3p Albamian Students, 1212NH 3:30p</td>
<td>3 Poetry Club's Animal Rights Benefit</td>
<td>NH Lobby, 10-3p CDC Meeting 1226NH, 5:30p</td>
<td>4 Breakfast w/ Council NH Lobby, 8-10a Poetry Club's Animal Rights Benefit</td>
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<td>Debate, 1212NH 3-6p Cheering Club 2200U4NH, 5-7p</td>
<td>Veterans, Justice In Action MPR 6-8p Movie Night: Brooklyn's Finest Lincoln Center Theater 6:30p</td>
<td>Student Council 2200U4, 3:30p ASA Wi Wednesday, NH Café, 12-3p ASA Dance Class, 1212NH 4-5p Dess Club mtg., 1212NH 5-6p Candidate Appeals &amp; Complaints, 7p</td>
<td>Student Council 2200U4, 3:30p OSA Wi Wednesday, NH Café, 12-3p OSA Dance Class, 1212NH 4-5p Dess Club mtg., 1212NH 5-6p Candidate Appeals &amp; Complaints, 7p</td>
<td>OSA 1521N -- (212) 237-8698 -- <a href="mailto:studentactivities@jjay.cuny.edu">studentactivities@jjay.cuny.edu</a></td>
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<td>OSA Cap &amp; Gown, NH Lobby 10-4p College Council Student Election Review Committee Appeals, 5p Debate, 1212NH 3-6p</td>
<td>OSA Cap &amp; Gown, NH Lobby 10-4p OSA FELA on Broadway</td>
<td>OSA Cap &amp; Gown, NH Lobby 10-4p Candidate Debates, Theatre Lobby 3p Student Convicts, 1212NH 3-5p Law Society Mtg., 2200U4NH 5:30-7p Evening Concert OSA Wi Wednesday, NH Café 5:30p</td>
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<td>OSA Cap &amp; Gown, NH Lobby 10-4p Westport, Debate, 1212NH 3-6p</td>
<td>Jostens, NHI 11-7p NHL Student Gov't Elections, 9am-3:30p @ T Bldg., NH Lobby, Westport Debate, 1212NH 3-6p</td>
<td>Jostens, NHI 11-7p NHL Student Gov't Election- claims 7:30pm @ T Bldg., NH Lobby, Westport Election Results Announced, NHL</td>
<td>Jostens, NHI 11-7p NHL Student Gov't Election- claims 7:30pm @ T Bldg., NH Lobby, Westport Election Results Announced, NHL</td>
<td>Jostens, NHI 11-7p NHL Faculty Reception in President's Office</td>
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<td>*Spring Recess ——&gt;</td>
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For further information contact the Office of Student Activities
OSA 1521N -- (212) 237-8698 -- studentactivities@jjay.cuny.edu

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### Student government elections just days away

**Presidential Candidates:**
1. Joseph Onwu
2. Marko Kepi
3. Norhan Basuni
4. Aliou “Isaac” DIALLO

**Vice President:**
1. Maxine Kerr
2. Tyler Garvey
3. Stanley Jean Baptiste

**Treasurer:**
1. Christopher N. Sui
2. Jose Rosario
3. Anastasia Williams
4. Jacqueline Serrano

**Secretary:**
1. Harrison Garcia
2. Pablo M. Romano
3. Elizabeth Cyran

**Graduate Representatives:**
1. Aijabde Longe
2. Clement James

**Senior Representatives:**
1. Chad Infante
2. Jeffrey Taylor
3. Paulique Cardona
4. Oscarina Diaz
5. Brian Costa
6. Lewquay Williams

**Sophomore Representatives:**
1. Winderline Petit-Frere
2. Mehak Kapoor
3. Michelle Tsang
4. Adji Chinebuah
5. Davinder Paul Singh
6. Alex Griffith

**Junior Representatives:**
1. John S. Cusick
2. Lewis Williams
3. Stanley Okwudili
4. Aijabde Longe

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### Candidate Debates

**Wednesday, March 17 at 3 p.m. GWL Theater Lobby**

**Thursday, March 18 at 6 p.m. 1311N**

### How to Vote

**Saturday, March 20 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. T-Building Catwalk ONLY**

**Monday, March 22 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. T-Building, North Hall Lobby, Westport**

**Tuesday, March 23 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. T-Building, North Hall Lobby, Westport**
Students stage event for quake-ravaged Haiti

By Amanda Aponte

As students, and as we grow older, we should look at the Haitian people for their strength, and rethink our values in life,” said Sheila Longchamp, a former president of the Haitian Student Association, during a speech about the Haitian flag and culture.

The “Remember the Dream Haitian Relief Fundraiser” took place Feb. 17 in the Gerald W. Lynch Theater in Haaren Hall (also known as John Jay’s T-Building) as a show of support for Haiti, which suffered a devastating earthquake Jan. 12 that killed at least 200,000 people.

The event was a collaboration between Student Council and a few of John Jay’s finest clubs. Student Government allocated $3,000 for the Haitian Relief event, including food, beverages, flyers, and “John Jay College Help Haiti Relief” bracelets (which cost $450 for 1,000.)

Approximately $640 was received from donations. The money went to Habitat for Humanity to help rebuild infrastructure in Haiti.

Music blared from the entranceway of the Gerald W. Lynch Theater, bringing in an influx of students. Aliau “Isaac” Diallo, a candidate for President of Student Council, and the John Jay International Musicians played a mix of Afrocentric rhythms and American rock at the fundraiser for Haiti, which suffered a devastating earthquake Jan. 12.

Donation tables were placed in front of the theatre, where student council and committee representatives encouraged donations for Haiti relief.

Lisa Marie Williams, vice president of Student Council, smiled and waved to students exiting the elevators to come to the event. “It took about two weeks to get everything together, and using the actual theater itself requires more people, and we wanted the event to be more personal. We want everyone to interact and be close to each other,” she said in regards to the extra work involved to rent the Gerald W. Lynch Theater.

The entire event, although triggered by the commemoration of Martin Luther King Jr., was brought together through the need of human rights. Clubs like Keep a Child Alive and Amnesty International represent John Jay’s finest through international humanitarians.

Longchamp, a John Jay graduate from 2008, gave a speech about how the strength of the Haitian people can be seen through the changes in the Haitian flag. Similar to her speech, a flyer was handed out stating “The Haitian Flag is a true symbol of the country and its people. If we understand the History of the Haitian Culture and the premise of Haitian Flag, the rest will be clear!”

Haiti was the first black country to become independent, and the people of Haiti have fought over the years for their freedom and will keep fighting to survive in this capitalist world. The bloodshed, success, and history of Haiti is depicted in their national flag.

There are donation bins for Haiti relief in each of the John Jay buildings, but you can also donate non perishable foods and any other kind of donation in the student government office.

Just 10 days after the fundraiser, on Feb. 27, another massive earthquake hit elsewhere, in the South American country of Chile.

Financial Aid Office gets mixed reviews from students

By Tricia Lewis

What do students think about the Financial Aid Office? Students have mixed views, even though the line is out the door and students become discouraged about standing on the One Stop line.

Criminal Justice major Jarrel Watkins recalled standing on the One Stop line to receive a slip to speak to the Financial Aid counselor. He watched students get off the line while saying under their breaths, “Forget it, I’m not going to do it today.” Many students believe waiting on the line is frustrating and time consuming.

Sylvia Lopez, the enrollment manager of the financial aid office, said that One Stop works very well because it’s easier for students to drop off information to One Stop rather than wait on the financial aid line.

Meanwhile, other students, like Socrates Alvarez, a Criminal Justice major, had a great experience with the office. He arrived on the line earlier, which resulted in him waiting 15 minutes on the One Stop line and 5 minutes on the financial aid line. This was a speedy experience compared to others.

Sally Guirguis, 21, is looking forward to going to law school in the future. She says that going to the Financial Aid Office is one of the worst experiences in her life.

“Workers are impotent, they will always rush me into signing documents” said Guirguis. She said there were many occasions when she called the Financial Aid Office on the phone and the workers would repeatedly hang up the phone, ignore phone calls, put her on hold or never respond.

However, Lopez believes that she might have been on hold because someone was trying to find the answer to her question.

Guirguis remembers a similar incident when she called the Financial Aid Office and was put on hold for 40 minutes. Her questions regarded a course that she was taking that would help replace another course for her major and the Financial Aid representative replied, “We don’t help in that department. You need to call this number.” This person directed her to another department and the other departments directed to her to One Stop.

Lopez replies “Financial aid is financial aid. Questions about transcripts or courses are not financial aid related. The department only deals with financial aid information and scholarships.” Lopez says if the student had a question regarding her concerns about financial aid covering for her classes, the department would be glad to answer her question.

Aarachi Udogwu, a junior, uses the term “very disorganized” to describe the Financial Aid Office. Udogwu explains that the Financial Aid Office had misplaced her Pell Verification Form because they had the wrong social security number. “They messed up the last digit of my social security number, they put a 3 instead of a 8, so it was under something else,” said Udogwu.

Lopez was concerned about the student’s situation and wanted more details with another follow up about the student’s incident. “When people are filing for their financial aid they often make mistakes when filing out their information,” Lopez said. Her example is that students will type very fast and make careless mistakes like writing their last name in the first name box when applying for financial aid.

There are many students who are completely satisfied with the Financial Aid Office and continue to make walk-in appointments for advice. Leslie Rosado a sophomore, is often disappointed with the Financial Aid staff. But one of the staff members who she is satisfied with is Valentina Morgan.

“She speaks Spanish in case my mom has to come in the office to speak with her and I never had a problem with her,” said Rosado.

Another student named Shawn Brown, explains that he is satisfied with Financial Aid’s service because they try to accommodate and take care of the situation as best as they can. When asked on a scale from 1 to 10 how satisfied he is with the financial aid service he explains that the Financial Aid Office scores an 8 because he has not received full aid for the past two years in college.

“It has to come out of my pockets which is my savings.” Yet, Brown continues to say that the Financial Aid Office gives great service and he doesn’t hold them accountable when his information is not processed.

John Jay students and the Financial Aid Office agree that students should apply for financial aid as quickly as possible.

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It’s not news that the use of Auto-Tune has become the next big thing in the music industry. For those of you who don’t know, Auto-Tune is this nifty little plug-in device used by sound engineers to automatically correct vocal and instrumental pitches in real time. In laymen’s terms, it makes your voice sound consistently and unrealistically perfect.

Even though Auto-Tune has been around for quite some time (first used in Cher’s 1998 hit “Believe”), lately it seems as though everyone is using it. Now, unless you’ve been living under a rock, you should know who T-Pain and Kanye West are. You can’t make fun of the man. He has other artists who support this movement include Christina Aguilera, Jay-Z, Wyclef Jean, Sigma, Adil Omar and T-Pain himself. I respect him for that. I’ll also admit I have a few albums, rumour has it that Prince has also asked him to work on his upcoming album.

T-Pain Tune that not only did Kanye and Diddy (P. Diddy/Puff Daddy/who knows anymore?) enlist him to work on their records, but also invested in his company (my interruption joke here). T-Pain has become such an expert on Auto-Tune that even he has used it on his own songs.

You’ve been living under a rock, you should know who J-Lo is. She’s been using it on her last few albums. And then there’s a whole slew of other celebrities. The human voice cannot echo or reverberate on its own. It seems as though everyone is using it. Now, unless

How absurd. We’re talking ARETHA here! Someone ought to teach that musician a little R-E-S-P-E-C-T! Time spent in the studio is about working with the material paper. I scan rather than reading, which I think is a superficial experience in comparison to when I sit (with) the book and text messages, emails, instant messages, etc. Apart from being able to see most students doing these things, and recognizing that they are a) not paying attention and b) getting only partial information (which makes it back on exams and papers in the most convoluted forms), it is very rude to the professor trying to teach that musician a little R-E-S-P-E-C-T! Time spent in the studio is about working with the material paper. I scan rather than reading, which I think is a superficial experience in comparison to when I sit (with) the book and text messages, emails, instant messages, etc. Apart from being able to see most students doing these things, and recognizing that they are a) not

Although the professors oppose the use of eBooks on Kindles, iPhones, iPads, Zunes, Blackberries, and other electronic devices, how do students feel? Question: Do you think that eBooks on your phone are better than bringing your textbooks to class? Vonyke Akers, senior, English Major: “Yes because you get the book on your phone it’s cheaper and there are less books that you need to carry around with you.”

Elizabeth Bucknam, junior, English Major: “I think books are better, but it’s really the same. I like holding the text in my hand.”

Jim Anderson, a noted music professor at New York University’s Clive Davis Department of Recorded Music and President of the Audio Engineering Society, related this story in a recent Time Magazine article: “The other day, someone was talking about how Aretha Franklin at the Inauguration was a bit pitchy. I said, ‘Of course! She was singing!’ And that was a musician talking! People are getting used to hearing things dead on pitch, and it’s changed their expectations.”

Veronica C. Hendrick, Assistant Professor of English: “From experience, I know that some students using computers in the classroom become distracted by other web-based items they can access.”

J. Paul Narkunas, Assistant Professor of English: “Students with electronic devices can move between several media beyond class notes or the text, and therefore will have focus issues. The compulsion to want to check email is very strong, even if one is a zealous and committed student, and therefore can lead to drifting.”

Jay Paul Gates, Assistant Professor of English: “There are two problems that arise. First, it is obvious in the John Jay context that students regularly text, check e-mail, Facebook, etc. Apart from being able to see most students doing these things, and recognizing that they are a) not

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**Children’s theater finds permanent home near John Jay**

Celebrities help The 52nd Street Project celebrate its opening, 30 years after it was founded

By Eric Jankiewicz

Celebrities Lewis Black, James McDaniel and Eddie Falco were among those who came together with the Hell’s Kitchen community on 52nd Street and 10th Avenue on Feb. 8 to celebrate the opening of a theater called The 52nd Street Project.

The 52nd Street Project is a theater for children from as young as age 7 all the way to high school, and it’s all completely free. With a red awning the establishment adds some color to a rather bleak, business-like midtown atmosphere. On the day of the ribbon cutting the celebrities hailed its contribution to the new generation. Black, a comedian who often appears on “The Daily Show,” said with nostalgia in his voice, “It reminds me of why we got into theater in the first place.”

A participant of the theater, Besart Beqiri, 12, from Public School 111, said “it’s like a community for kids where we can get together and be creative.”

Jillian Zaragoza, 8, who wore a chicken mask and an astronaut costume, perked up when she heard Beqiri talk about the new location. Even though the mask, her muffled voiced shrilled with excitement: “Before we always moved from one building to another and I lost many friends…”

While the location at 52nd and 10th is its first permanent establishment, founder Willie Reale began the theater over 30 years ago.

During those tumultuous years the institution’s migration from one location to another was analogous to the traveling patterns of a snail. First they started on 52nd and 10th then they moved across the street and then back again. This pattern continued for 30 years until the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs began a fundraising campaign. Over $3 million collected by private donors made it possible for the kids of The 52nd Street Project to have a place they can call home.

The feeling of community was strong during the grand opening, where 50 or so children in the audience cheered louder for their Artistic Director Gus Rogerson than they did for the three celebrities, who mostly got their cheers from the 100 or so adult audience members.

“This is where people can come together to be the best they can,” said Gus Rogerson.

For those in John Jay who are inspired by these words of Rogerson you may be asking yourself “What can I do to join the fun?”

Kate D. Levin, Commissioner for the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, said that “such establishments affect the whole neighborhood and in doing so enliven the location with culture by getting the whole community involved.” Yes! You are part of the community and can get involved as an intern. Working at The 52nd Street Project requires you to sometimes act out a script that is written by the children or help kids write their poems.

“That is how the structure within the theater works: the children are the playwrights and then adults act out the play,” Rogerson screamed above the cacophony around him. Students ran back and forth saying things like, “The character in my play has struggles similar to those of the main character in Invisible Man by Ellison.”

Zaragoza does not have to worry about losing friends anymore. Now she, Beqiri and other kids have a place where the fun never ends, on 52nd Street.

For more about the theater, go to www.52project.org.

**Show celebrates life, music of Nina Simone**

By Anita Bradley

American singer, songwriter, activist, dating the Prime Minister of Barbados -- all of this still falls short in describing the life and career of Nina Simone.


The play did not follow a strict script or a storyline. A few women sang and performed as if they were Simone.

“The play opened up my eyes to such a wonderful person that I never knew existed,” said audience member Nicki Taylor.

Simone was born as Eunice Kathleen Waymon in 1933 in North Carolina. Born to a poor family of eight, she lived during a time when skin color was much more crucial in everyday life. In her local church, Simone discovered her love of music. When she performed in church, her parents were forced to sit in the back rows to make way for the Caucasians that attended.

Despite being financially burdened, her mother made a way to enroll Simone in piano lessons. Breaking stereotypes and separatism Simone went to the acclaimed school of Julliard.

The stage name “Nina Simone” came about because Simone did not want her mother to know she was playing “the devil’s music.” “Nina” was a nickname given to her by her boyfriend, and “Simone” was after the French actress Simone Signoret. Simone played local clubs and later became a well known singer and pianist in America. To avoid taxes she moved to Barbados and became involved with the Prime Minister. She later moved around the world, ultimately residing in France. At age 70, Simone passed away and left behind a lifetime of music.

Unbeknownst to anyone Simone suffered from multiple personality disorder and schizophrenia. Yet, she managed to overcome such illnesses and become the great musician that she was.

At the show, the crowd watched in awe as the performers emulated Simone. One show-stopping performance was “I Put A Spell on You.”

“Her life story is just amazing to me. She had so much talent but that didn’t prevent her from facing hardship,” said Brittany Coleman, a Hunter College student.

Simone’s music was an eclectic mix of genres. The songs ranged from jazz, pop, soul and even a taste of rock. The audience never knew just what was coming next.

The play showed how powerful music was and how it got Simone through life. It left you wanting more -- definitely more music.
even break any rules. All she did was turn around and bend down. What’s so wrong about that? 

Some audience members felt it was an overreaction to remove her and even booed the judges. When Landry was asked to comment on the incident she replied, “It was a really difficult decision because I was blowing up the spot.” She also felt she had not violated the terms of the contest, and was annoyed at the judges’ decision.

One hour of the performers singing, dancing and reciting poetry, the top three contestants were chosen by the judges, who were professors at John Jay as well as a student.

Orlando Diaz, a sophomore majoring in Criminal Justice, was chosen for spoken word. He performed a poem which he started with, “This poem goes out to the strengthened women,” and ended with “This is a man’s world, under women’s supervision,” and had all the females in the audience screaming for him. Diaz said he’d been doing spoken word for a long time and found this experience interesting. “I was in it last year and it didn’t make me to the finals but I still did it to enjoy it,” he said. He also revealed plans to participate in a future talent show. Abigail Image, a freshman from Queens, and Jomaine

“Highest rankings—Is this just a subtle way of saying John Jay College has the easiest

A curry to my income categories. At the end of the day it’s really numbers game that not only John Jay students are feeding into but students across the nation from all universities. 

“Three is the perfect number because it’s a numbers game that not only John Jay students are feeding into but students across the nation from all universities. 

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“Highest rankings—Is this just a subtle way of saying John Jay College has the easiest
Filmmaker talks “Truth” about crime

By Jayelle Doraisinville, Robert Moretti & Atajana Martinez

Celebrated filmmaker and criminologist Roger Graef gave a screening of his BBC-TV documentary, “The Truth About Crime,” at John Jay. The special appearance took place Feb. 25 and included President Jeremy Travis, Judge Alex Calabrese and Professor Peter Moskos.

“We expect too much from the justice system,” Graef, a criminologist, writer and award-winning filmmaker, said at the screening.

Graef was born in New York City, so his ties brought him to John Jay to show what could be very valuable information to authorities here as well.

His documentary is basically a collection of footage taken by criminologists during a two-week period in Oxford, England. The film covered three types of crime – violent crime, property crime, and anti-social behavior – and how each sector of the law handles these incidents. Students and guests watched the segment on “anti-social behavior” and upon its conclusion discussed the impact of the film.

The footage consisted partly on interviews with people who have become victims of crimes such as having their home windows broken by a thrown brick or their trashcans set on fire. Graef said one of his main goals was “to take pressure off police,” and to reveal valuable information to help police have a better understanding of their community.

Anti-social behavior is most common among teenagers because bored teens act out as a form of recreation. Graef and his panel discussed teens in relation to anti-social behavior, “Kids don’t pay taxes, so they are ignored,” said Graef.

When it comes to anti-social behavior the film also states teens are often the culprit and the victims. The consistent theme within the segment was the lack of options for children in this part of London. “Guess when youth clubs are closed?” questioned Graef. “On weekends and holidays.”

Instead of summoning the law to prevent children from taking part in anti-social behavior, there should be outlets that will suppress their need to act out violently.

Oxford was compared to New York City many times and Calabrese, a presiding judge of the Red Hook Community Justice Center who was also a former appointed judge to the Criminal Court of the City of New York, spoke on the Broken Window Theory and how that correlates to anti-social behavior. The Broken Window Theory is the idea that when graffiti, condemned buildings and disheveled neighborhoods are left unkempt the community reflects that in their behavior.

“Treat communities with respect and get respect,” said Judge Calabrese.

Disorder and crime go hand-in-hand and the film dictates that kids with no structure to begin to lose at people in their own community. This is what Graef wants to change. Graef is not only a signature crime within a society but a cry for help from its residents.

The discussion was also open to viewers, and students offered their response. “The redesign program they instituted on the projects really improved crime rates,” said sophomore Amanda Osorio. “I wish New York City would change the public housing design too.”

The film offered ideas for preventing crime, including more lighting on streets, blocking off alleyways with gates, having buildings with better surveillance of outside areas, and getting police more involved with the community.

Oxford police officers took a proactive approach by starting a soccer league wins at youth. By participating in the organized sport with them, the teens gain structure and a better relation to the officers that serve their community.

One audience member asked Moskos, an assistant professor of law, police science and criminal justice administration at John Jay who was also a former police officer in Baltimore, if it was possible for teens with activities to help build a relationship like they had done in Oxford.

Moskos said he doubted that could happen because cops in Britain were off the clock and they could not work on weekends.

One John Jay student in the audience, Gary Hernandez, said he was shocked to hear that. “If we have that kind of attitude coming from officers then what changes can we expect?”

But Calabrese said it can be done here. He those three films incorporated elements of community in Red Hook. “Reward kids that haven’t experienced success,” he said.

Community issues can be boiled down to statistics and rates but the problems will remain. “Don’t trust numbers to look for answers to long term social problems” said Graef. Most community members do not report crimes because of fear, which works against their struggle to bring the community to a more positive level. Graef believes there is no one person that should handle the issues of anti-social behavior, “All of the citizens are responsible for doing their part.”

For more information about the film, visit www.bbc.co.uk/truthaboutcrime.

Workshop focuses on mentoring students

By Desiree Mathurin

Enlightenment occurred Feb. 16 at the Career Workshop for English Majors and Minors at the English conference room located at 619 W. 54th St.

As the guest speakers -- Alexander Long, Rosebud Ben-Oni and Virginia B. Morris -- spoke about their hardships in their careers and the help they received to overcome those hardships, the many students who arrived at the annex building in the mini blizzard listened attentively, hoping to leave with further direction toward their future. Hoping that they would not be lost in the fog of uncertainty forever. They didn’t leave disappointed.

“A great overview of what we can do,” Emilie Heere, 20, a junior, stated at the end of the workshop.

In a college that is mostly focused on criminal justice, it is difficult to pursue a career in the English language. The English Major and Minor there is a different venue for students that does not require a transfer to another college. However, as students make the switch to the major or the minor they are even more confused than they were to begin with.

“Since English is such a broad major with so many different job opportunities, I don’t know if I should change to it or what I would do if I did,” said Valentina Nezaj, 20, a sophomore, before the workshop.

Many students like her need a mentor and that is what the first career workshop of the spring semester was about. Mentoring.

Alexander Long, an English professor at the English Language Institute, said he had been his mentor and the aid his mentor had given him. According to Long, without the help of his mentor, Christopher Buckley, he would “still be writing obituaries,” and not teaching classes like American Literature or History of Poetic Form. Long went from being a technical writer to a published poet. None of that would be possible without the help of his mentor.

Mentors supply students with esteem boosts and road maps to their lives during college and afterward, the afterward being more important. Mentors can supply students with recommendation letters and perhaps job opportunities.

Long said he would “love” to mentor students.

He “looks forward” to aiding students. As did all of the students after the workshop was finished.

To attend the next career workshop you do not have to be an English Major or Minor. If a student has an interest in the topic they are most certainly welcome to come. The next workshop will be announced via students’ John Jay e-mail addresses.

Students talk about success of sci-fi epics

By David Rodriguez

For the first time in 28 years, not one, but two science fiction films were nominated for best picture at the 82nd Annual Academy Awards, televised March 7. “Avatar” and “District 9” let themselves down,” said senior Masoud House. "Had they continued pushing perhaps they could have won."

Senior Masoud House, said he was shocked to hear that. “The movie industry does not care any more, with the focus turned away from the science fiction genre.”

The science fiction epic is still a fairly new concept. House compared “Avatar” to “Blade Runner,” a movie that “gave you the future ahead of time and it pushed our thinking to where we might go” as opposed to “Avatar” and “District 9,” they show you where we are now, but they don’t give you a possible future for where we are going.

Science-fiction films “should be pushing our thinking, our understanding, and our ideas of what the world has in it.”

Nabeela Basheer, another senior, said action movies are more popular because they are “more inclusive,” and it is possible these three films incorporated elements of the Oscars in order to lose the majority of its nominations to “The Hurt Locker,” directed by Kathryn Bigelow.


“I think ultimately (Avatar, Star Trek, and District 9) let themselves down,” said senior Masoud House. “They had continued pushing perhaps they could have won.”

All three movies achieved critical and temporary example of the two genres meeting. “The Hurt Locker,” directed by Kathryn Bigelow, had nine nominations while “District 9” had four nominations, an honor also shared with the new “Star Trek” film. “Avatar” was also the first 3D movie to be nominated for best picture.

“Avatar” has been regarded as an epic, and its popularity was only matched by the extreme amounts of hype and money that the movie pulled in. However, this proved to be insufficient in securing major wins at the Oscars as “Avatar” lost the majority of its nominations to “The Hurt Locker,” directed by Kathryn Bigelow.


“I think ultimately (Avatar, Star Trek, and District 9) let themselves down,” said senior Masoud House. “They had continued pushing perhaps they could have won.”

All three movies achieved critical and box-office success, though House believes that “technology makes us defective and incapable of thinking of our own.”

“District 9” incorporates the style of a documentary in its first half while the second half is a sci-fi epic mixed with balls-to-the-wall insanity; it is the best contemporary example of the two genres meeting. House warns that these movies will not be timeless like “Alien” and “Blade Runner.”

“The movie industry does not care any more, with the focus turned away from the message and more on pleasing the masses, and the story loses its value, especially in science-fiction.”
By Uchenna Anyaoha

John Jay’s basketball team The Bloodhounds ended their 2009–10 season with a loss to Medgar Evers College’s team, The Cougars, 83-61 at the Bloodhounds’ home court, known as “The Doghouse.”

The home crowd was ready for a win Feb. 15. Many people were rooting for the Bloodhounds, especially John Jay fans, who have stuck by the team even with their 1-24 record for the season. The Bloodhounds were led by Vaughn Mason, who scored 9 points in the first quarter.

As the fans heavily rooted for their players, their hopes and dreams for their team fell when they began to realize that the Bloodhounds were falling extensively behind on the points. By halftime, John Jay was rapidly on the way down the scoreboard. The echoes of screaming fans were heard no more in the Doghouse as the points for Medgar Evers College began to climb up for the rest of the night.

At halftime, John Jay was trailing behind Medgar Evers by 8 points. The points scored by the Medgar Evers’ Cougars were increased with many turnovers by the John Jay Bloodhounds. The final blow to the fans of the home team and to the home team themselves—The Bloodhounds, was the difference in the scores in the last five minutes of the game, which was 69 to 49.

“At this point, even if the Bloodhounds made a quick turnaround and began to score rapid points, it would be impossible to save their title,” a Bloodhound fan Emmanuela Eke exclaim during during the final moments of the game. Eke added “I have never seen a more disappointing game in my life, to think I drove all the way from Westchester for this, what a waste. The coaches have more work to do on these guys… I mean… some of their plays were excellent but their teamwork was rubbish.”

The Bloodhounds had failed to lead the game at any point and this was apparently seen by fans as an enormous disappointment. Although this loss was arguably vast, there were many players who owed the John Jay fans. Vaughn Mason, who led the John Jay Bloodhounds, was recognized with a 1,258 career point record. He played his final game as a John Jay Bloodhound that night, scoring 32 points. An additional 13 points for the Bloodhounds were contributed by aspiring and quick footed player Darryl Dennis, a freshman.

On the other side of the fence, leading stars for Medgar Evers’ win were Ronald Holloway, who scored 24 points in both parts of the game, and Winston Douglas, who contributed 12 points in the second half. His 16 rebounds aided Medgar Evers in their win.

“They hammered us,” Rex Trochoe said. “They didn’t even give us a chance to lead but they were okay…I think I’m going to go to another one of their games and see if they can keep it up…No lie though, John Jay sucks a-bad-one. I don’t even know how they came this far…I would’ve never paid a dime if it were an event that you had to pay for. Don’t get it twisted it’s their fault, Medgar Evers sucks too. It’s like watching two Special Ed kids argue. At the end of the day, they both lose.”

One student, Melanie Chan, thought the team excelled in their endeavor to win. “I thought they played a good game, they had a few ups and downs but it is expected. I mean, they have come very far and this loss is just a challenge. They can do better.”

The Bloodhounds are scheduled to undergo intense training for the 2010-11 season.

By Amanda Aponte

What is New York City’s best, free attraction for John Jay students?

Broadway in Times Square is the most popular tourist attraction in New York City. The magical lights and music are just a few blocks of John Jay College, yet many students have never seen a Broadway show. The cost of tickets can range from $60 to $200, but if you are a John Jay student you can watch these spectacular shows for free.

Student Government has designated a portion of their budget to provide group tickets for Broadway shows to John Jay students.

This past fall students, were able to see shows such as The Phantom of the Opera, Hair, Christmas Spectacular, and Wintuk by signing up in Room 1226 North Hall. The tickets are part of an effort to transform John Jay from a commuter college to more of a campus community.

According to Nadine Hylton, the Student Council Treasurer, the Student Council saw a need for student involvement within the college. “As an urban commuting campus we saw it as imperative to help build a sense of community amongst our students,” Hylton said. “As such, each month the Council selects a show—thus far it has been a major Broadway production, such as the Lion King and In the Heights, to take students.”

As treasurer, Hylton’s tasks include organizing the yearly budget that the council receives from student activity fees.

“For most shows I budget $1,500 to $2,000 for 30 to 40 tickets,” she said. Usually the price of Broadway tickets are about $80-$150 for rear mezzanine seats, but Student Council is able to get these tickets for cheaper because they are buying group packages.

“Sometimes the group rate allows us the chance to purchase more tickets, which are always handy as we usually have more students signing up for the shows than we have tickets for,” Hylton said.

This past fall the Student Council bought 30 tickets to the Phantom of the Opera at the Majestic Theater. The Phantom of the Opera, the longest running Broadway play, is such a longstanding and prestigious production that they charge $118 for one ticket to sit in the rear mezzanine and $158 for orchestra/front mezzanine seats. Currently the play is starring John Cudia and Jennifer Hope Wills with music by Andrew Lloyd Webber.

For the spring semester, Student Council planned not just Broadway tickets, but a masquerade ball, too.

Information about free Broadway tickets is either posted on the information boards around the college or e-mailed to staff and students. Students can also inquire about tickets to future shows or sign up in Room 1226 North Hall.