

Community College CAMPUS NEWS

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Volume 1, Issue 3
Transfer Issue! Free!

April 2010

Beware of Scams	3
New Films	4
Letters	5
NCC Math Lab	5
Television Review	9
Classifieds	12
Sports: Bats All!	14

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Fey, 4



Comics!



Ding! 14



Helpful Math Lab, 5

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When it's time to transfer

Christine Barton
Campus News

Community colleges play a fundamental role in the educational system in the United States. Almost half of the undergraduate students attending college in the country have been serviced in some way by the community college system. Affordability, quality education and open access are longstanding cornerstones of community colleges. It goes without saying that millions of individuals would be without access to education if it weren't for community colleges. It is estimated that the majority of new job development in the next few years will require some level of advanced education. Community colleges not only provide opportunities for individuals but also serve to fill the demand of the enhanced requirements necessary to stimulate economic development. According to statistics gathered by American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), 11.5 million students are enrolled community colleges across the country. For many students, community college is a stepping stone for future goals.

To transfer or not to transfer becomes the question for many students that attend community colleges. Just a short few semesters after starting the journey to higher education, students are once making significant decisions about the next chapter in their educational career. The typical community college is diverse with students from different backgrounds who have chosen community colleges as a starting point for their future career plans. For some this may be the first college experience, for others, a stepping stone to a career change. Regardless of the reason, there comes a time that each student

continued on page 11



Leaving LaGuardia CC. Percy Alban photo.

Albany cuts rattle public colleges

Laura LaVacca
Campus News

The latest piece of news to come amidst economic crisis includes Governor Paterson's steep budget cuts in CUNY and SUNY schools. The proposed budget reductions would cut student programs, layoff many teachers and support staffs, and threaten to "undermine opportunities for students looking to start careers and unemployed workers training for new jobs" (<http://www.nysut.org>). Paterson's proposal includes a \$84.3 million dollar cut from CUNY's 2011-12 budget. This would decrease financial aid and tuition assistance for books. This would inevitably result in some students being unable to attend school altogether. An article by Anna Gustafson entitled "Queens Col-

lege Students Worried Over CUNY Cuts" describes such students. One student in the article explained that she would probably have to leave school altogether because her family cannot afford to pay more for her education.

Paterson feels the cuts are necessary and released a statement saying that "there are no more easy answers" and we must stop "spending money that we do not have. Significant spending reductions are necessary if we want to emerge from this crisis and build a strong fiscal and economic recovery" (Gustafson).

There has been quite a response to the situation from students and teachers. Just a few weeks ago students and professors from the SUNY and CUNY schools joined forces in Albany on March 9th to protest the proposed


budget cuts. The protest was organized by the New York Public Interest Research Group. Students and employees were given a chance to talk with legislators about the issues surrounding the cuts. Hundreds showed up to express their concern.

In addition, New York State United Teachers (NYSUT) launched a statewide campaign by creating two commercials that air in New York, informing New Yorkers about the budget cuts. The ads strive to remind the public that investing in higher education would help the current economic state. The president of NYSUT, Richard C. Iannuzzi, stated that "New York's recovery will hinge on business' ability to hire skilled workers to develop new products in what is emerging as a knowledge-based economy." He added that "If Al-

bany fails to reject the governor's proposed education cuts to public schools, to SUNY, CUNY and their community colleges, business leaders will go out of state to hire skilled workers for knowledge-based jobs or they may not be in a position to create any new jobs at all" (<http://www.nysut.org>). The budget cuts not only have immediate negative effects but would hurt the future of students and the job market.

Many students attending SUNY and CUNY schools share the same sentiments as Iannuzzi. Colleen Calder, student at SUNY Buffalo, fears for the quality of education, stating, "SUNY Buffalo allows me and countless fellow students to affordably receive a nursing degree. We need schools like SUNY Buffalo to offer the best

continued on page 8



Where Transfer Students Succeed

College of Arts and Sciences	Gordon F. Derner Institute of Advanced Psychological Studies	Honors College	School of Business
Ruth S. Ammon School of Education	School of Nursing	School of Social Work	University College

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CCs: Secret path to top universities

Prof. Richard S. Hyland *Westchester CC*

Each year a new wave of high school students apply to college with the hope of gaining acceptance to a selective college or university. Of course where there is opportunity and prestige there is also competition, and perhaps nowhere is this more manifest than in gaining entrance into a top school. Many students, despite having a strong background in high school are edged out in the fierce competition.

Fully ninety-five percent of students who gain entrance to Princeton and Yale each year are in the top ten percent of their graduating high school classes, and the other six Ivies are similarly weighted with top students. Those students not in the top ten percent may include legacies (students whose parents attended the same school), students from states with lower representation at that particular school (think Alaska) or students who have other strengths like unique creative abilities or a fresh perspective as demonstrated in their admissions essays. This leaves many excellent and highly qualified students out in the cold.

Most students who are rejected from their first choice simply move on to their second or third choice schools, while others may appeal the decision. (Many, though not all, top schools offer applicants the ability to appeal the decision, but most students do not gain entry upon appeal according to the College Board.)

Another, less obvious way to gain entry to a top tier school is to start at a community college. Perceptions of community colleges vary greatly depending on whom you ask, but it might be surprising to some that community college students regularly transfer to top ranked four-year colleges. For parents, community colleges have great appeal due to their affordability, academic support, and proximity to home among other things. But a lesser known benefit is that they can also serve as an alternate pathway into elite colleges.

Hard statistics on the number of students who gain acceptance to top schools in this way are hard to come by, but “parents and students have been using this approach forever,” says Professor John Christensen, Chairman of the Department of Business at Westchester Community College. “Over the years, many of our best students have gone on to great schools like Wharton [University of Pennsylvania], NYU, Clarkson and ILR [the School of Industrial Labor Relations at Cornell]. This year we have a handful of alumni attending Cornell.”

Not far from Westchester, Rockland Community College also has many success stories. On average, ten to twelve students transfer

from RCC to the NYU Steinhard School of Education on scholarships each year. “For the last two years in a row one of our students has received a full scholarship to Harvard,” offers Len Gersten from the Student Services department at RCC. “Each year we have students who transfer to Columbia, Brown, and Cornell.”

Author Peter Sacks suggests that the eventual payoff to students who attend elite colleges – those from of all ethnic backgrounds – can be extraordinary. Graduates of elite schools out-earn counterparts nationwide by almost \$40,000 a year and are far more likely to enter highly paid, prestigious professions. According to Sacks, 3 percent of college graduates nationally become physicians, while 15 percent of graduates from prestigious colleges do so. With so much at stake, it is no surprise that students and parents from all backgrounds are desirous of these colleges.

If the elite colleges can afford to be so selective, one might wonder why they accept transfer students at all. There are in fact several benefits these colleges gain by admitting transfer students. First, it can alleviate the need for student housing given the fact that freshman tend to require on-campus housing more than upper classmen – and transfer students often come in as juniors. It can also help offset attrition and increase enrollment in higher-level courses.

According to Cathleen Sheils, Associate Director and Transfer Coordinator at Cornell University, “Community College students bring their unique experiences to their transfer University. Often they have a breadth of leadership and work experience and are able to transition by getting involved in student organizations, research labs and on campus employment at their four year University.”

According to New York University’s website, roughly 32% of those who applied to the school as freshmen in 2003 were accepted. Fully 35% of the 4,692 students who applied for transfer to NYU in the same year were accepted. The percentages are clearly, if only slightly, in favor of the transfer student. Parents and students in the know can, and do take advantage of this fact.

Although they tend to emphasize their differences, most colleges and universities look for similar traits in a prospective student. A strong academic record, good leadership skills, extracurricular activities, high SAT scores, community service, strong writing skills, and a strong desire to succeed, are some of the hallmarks of a successful applicant. If a student is missing some of these attributes in high school, a community college can offer another chance to demonstrate these abilities and enhance an application.

Shiels suggests that community college students wishing to transfer to selective colleges should be aware of the transfer requirements and that selection is not solely based on GPA: “Selection is based, more importantly on the courses a student has completed. We are looking for solid academic achievement, grades of B or better in liberal arts courses, a clear sense of a student’s academic interest and fit with our University clearly expressed in the application essay, and leadership experience.” She adds “We see a concern about affordability of a four year education and not completely understanding how financial aid is awarded and available. There is a need for Community College advisors and faculty to become aware of and share the

breadth of transfer opportunities with their high achieving students early in the process, as transferring takes planning.”

In his book “Accept My Kid, Please!,” Hank Herman describes the stress and anxiety felt by parents and their children in navigating the application process. He notes

students with limited options, but that perception has changed significantly in recent years. As the economy flounders and the cost of a four-year degree continues to rise – some estimates indicate that students entering kindergarten this year will spend over of \$200,000 for a four year degree at a private college when they reach college age – more parents and students are looking to the community college as the secret path to the Ivy League.

Two-year colleges had been seen as a place for students with limited options; now, even the Ivies are an option

that parents can put undue pressure on their children to achieve things that they themselves have not been able to accomplish.

Westchester County, known for its wealthy and über-competitive residents, boasts some of the best high schools in the country, and so expectations can be high.

In the past community colleges were seen as a place for stu-

About the Author

Mr. Hyland is currently a Professor of Business at Westchester Community College. He is an alumnus of Westchester Community College, and transferred to the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, where he earned a BS in Economics. He is currently a doctoral candidate at Columbia University Teachers College and lives in White Plains, NY, with his wife and three children.

Scam victim speaks out

Darren Johnson *Campus News*

An unexpected windfall – \$2869.23. An easy job doing something she did anyway – shopping.

Walmart. Burger King.

“The job was to be a mystery shopper. The easiest job in the world,” she said. “Buy everything I want, and get paid for it.”

Then, Jamie Smith of Nassau Community College was sent on a secret mission – use her new skills to test out Western Union on March 5.

“I didn’t think the job wasn’t real,” she added. “I used to work at Waldbaums, and we’d get mystery shoppers there all the time.”

She did her best double-oh-seven. Taking notes on how the Western Union clerk processed her order. She made some idle chit-chat with the clerk, who handled the transaction well.

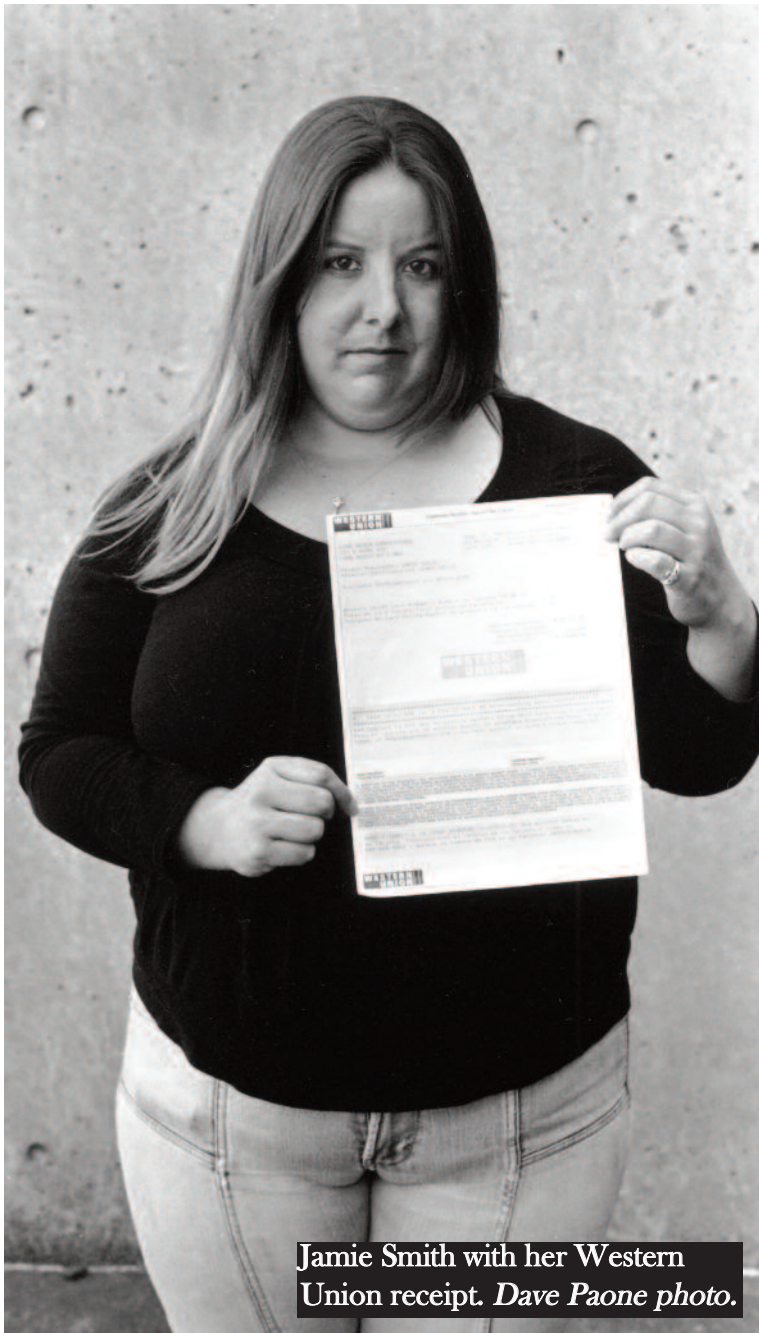
Unfortunately.

Because in a few seconds of the whirr and buzz of a modem, Smith’s windfall was gone – and then some. She was suddenly \$2400 in the hole.

As her good check was being converted to Euros by a recipient in Spain, the checked she’d originally gotten from a group called Secret Shoppers bounced.

“I faxed over my evaluations of Walmart, Burger King and Western Union on Friday and Saturday. By Monday I tried to use my ATM card and couldn’t. It was locked down.”

The Secret Shoppers com-



Jamie Smith with her Western Union receipt. *Dave Paone photo.*

pany was gone, with Smith’s cash, and Smith’s bank wasn’t too happy. They froze her account, tacked on some fees and Smith – who barely was getting by financially as a community college student – was in a panic.

“It’s a good thing I got my tax

return, and have my parents,” she said, “because [Secret Shoppers] took every little bit from me.”

The 26-year-old studying to be an RN originally got an email from Secret Shoppers after filling out a form on a site for job-seek-

continued on page 6

New to the small screen

Laura Tucker Campus News

Perhaps I'm showing my age here, but it's just not like it used to be when we had just three networks with regular programming. Our TV shows had their season premieres in September, just after Labor Day, would go on hiatus for a few weeks around Christmas, then would go on summer hiatus sometime in May, just before Memorial Day. We'd have "summer replacement series" and reruns throughout June, July, and August. With the addition of Fox and CW as networks, and more cable outlets than you can count, we have new seasons starting and ending every month of the year. The month of April is no different.

We have many series going on hiatus this month, but the one that stands out in front of all the others is "Ugly Betty," as it not only ends its season, but ends its run on ABC after four seasons. There was a certain irony of the show that revolved around a fashion magazine, yet focused on a person who was called "Ugly" in the title, and the series gained a quick following, but with it moving all around the schedule recently, it spelled sure doom. It's only fitting that a few weeks before the series finale on April 14, Betty is scheduled to finally get those braces off.

ABC is replacing "Ugly Betty" on the schedule with "Happy Town" on April 28, which appears to be yet another ironically named series. It revolves around Haplin, Minnesota, which has lived in peace for the past five years after an earlier series of abductions. The main suspect in the kidnappings, "Magic Man," returns to Haplin, and many wonder he's back to abduct more of the townsfolk. ABC is comparing the new series to "Twin Peaks" in their ads, and if so, it's quite a difference from "Ugly Betty." CBS, meanwhile, is adding "Miami Medical" to its schedule on April 2. The series follows a team of surgeons who enjoy the adrenaline rush of working on traumas, and

they works solely on patients with injuries that are life-threatening. How many medical shows to do we need to add before we can finally replace "ER?"

"Bones" and "Fringe" will be seeing their spring premieres on April 1, and one week later, "Bones" will celebrate its 100th episode. This will take fans back six years ago as Brennan and Booth reflect back on their first case together. As Sweets finishes his book on their partnership, Brennan and Booth make sure the story gets told the right way. "The Hills" and "The City" return to MTV on April 27. Many people that tune in this time, after having the over-saturation that was Speidi last year, will do so just to see what Heidi Montag will look like after all that plastic surgery she admitted to being addicted to late last year.

The highlights for the month aren't just reserved to returning, debuting, and departing series, though. We also have a few great specials, and they're both related to Fox's "American Idol" in some way. After a one year departure, the series will return to it's "Idol Give Back" week midway through the season. This time it'll be April 21. No announcements have been made yet as to who the special guests will be, but it's bound to be momentous as usual. But if you're feeling sentimental for last year, "Friday Night Alright" is closing out their season with "Adam Lambert Unplugged" on April 9.

Now on DVD

Science Fiction fans will get their fill on April 6 this month when "Battlestar Galactica: The Complete Series Box Set" is released. This 26 disc set is in widescreen and covers all four seasons of the series that ended in 2008. It stars Edward James Olmos and Mary McDonnell. Once you get done with all 26 discs, if you're not too tired, the 1978 animated version of "The Lord of the Rings" has been remastered and is being released on April 6 as well.

continued on page 6

Film: 'Date Night' Opens April

Laura Tucker Campus News

You know a film has to be good when it combines two great comedians. Steve Carell and Tina Fey star as a married couple looking for a little extra excitement. While Fey's humor follows Carell's with "30 Rock" appearing on NBC right after "The Office," here they star together. Married couple Phil and Claire Foster have their weekly "date night," but decide to spice it up a little, going to a hot new restaurant and stealing someone else's reservations. Unfortunately, this gets them confused for a couple of thieves, setting them up for a real adventure to spice up their marriage. Mark Wahlberg, James Franco, Leighton Meester, Kristen Wiig, Ray Liotta, Mila Kunis, and Mark Ruffalo also costar. "Date Night" opens April 9.

Tyler Perry doesn't need a funny costar, or a director or screenwriter either. He's a one man movie production house. The same guy behind "Tyler Perry's Madea's Family Reunion" and "Tyler Perry's Meet the Browns," is behind the sequel to "Tyler Perry's Why Did I Get Married?" This brings together the same cast and characters as the college friends now all struggle with married life. Although he doesn't need anyone else, it does also star Janet Jackson, Cicely Tyson, and Louis Gossett Jr. Just a few names to throw around. "Tyler Perry's Why Did I Get Married Too?" makes its debut April 2 in theaters.

continued on page 6

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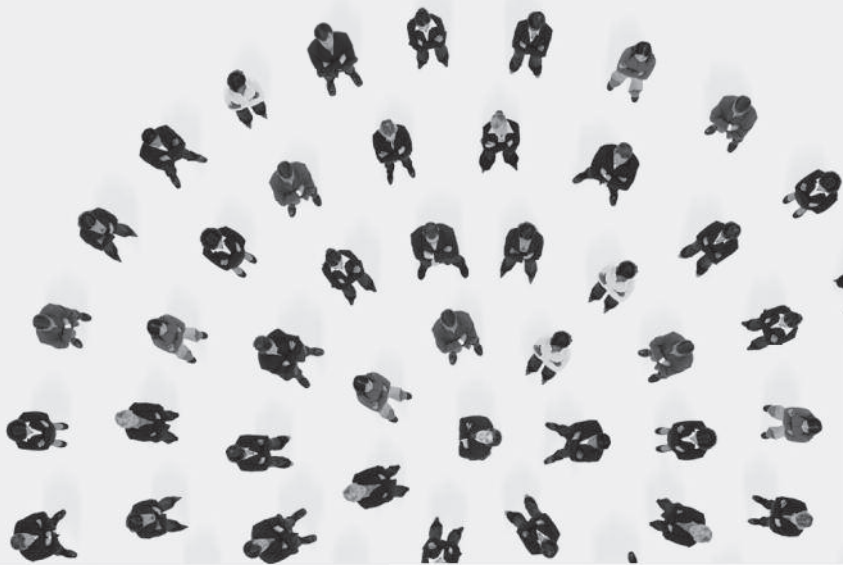
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First-year student Cindi Gonzalez with Dr. Steve Sun. -dp

1-on-1 Tutoring Adds Up at NCC Math Lab

Dave Paone
Campus News

Algebra. Calculus. Logic and set theory. Advanced calculus. To many college students these math courses can be quite intimidating or down right frightening. So where can one go to keep his head above water in the endless sea of sines and cosines? At Nassau Community College, it's the Math Success Center.

The center, which is open Monday through Saturday, is staffed by 11 tutors (called "coaches") whose gift is in math. While some are professors and others are students themselves, each has a thorough understanding of at least one type of math. Should a student wander in (since no appointment is necessary), chances are there will be a coach on hand who has intimate knowledge of the genre of math he needs help with.

Depending on the demand for coaches at that particular time, the student could very well have a one-on-one session as he does his homework. Should a coach wind up helping three students with different assignments at the same time, it's still practically a private lesson.

The center, which is run by John Earnest, opened in January of 2009 specifically for remedial math students who needed extra help. The school already had a math lab designed for the other math students. However, students on all levels have discovered the Math Success Center, and they're welcome to drop in. If there's a coach who can help, he will.

One such student is freshman Cindi Gonzalez who is studying to be a special education teacher.

"I'm good at everything except math; that's why I need help," she stated. "And you'll be surprised because my brother takes graphic design but you need math for all of that."

Another first-year student, Roselyn Brown, is a liberal arts major.

"Even though this is my second time at the math lab, I feel more confident... I'm going to feel more confident going to my class this Thursday. I do like math. I think before I didn't like math because I was afraid of it."

The coaches at the center have varied backgrounds. Dr. Steve Sun, originally from Taiwan, holds a Ph.D. in math. Although Eda Kuscakoglu is a student at NCC, she holds a BA in statistics from her native Turkey. Fei Chiang, originally from China, has a masters in engineering and was a both a middle and high school math teacher.

"In a classroom you have to take into account everybody's different abilities. Whereas in tutoring, I can sit down with you and know your strengths and know your weaknesses, and I'll concentrate in dealing with them," said Mr. Chiang who's also an adjunct professor at NCC.

"It's really fantastic when you can explain a concept to a student that he couldn't understand before and his eyes light up. It's a fantastic feeling," continued Mr. Chiang.

In addition to Mr. Earnest and the 11 coaches, there are six student aids.

The layout of the room may not be what one would expect when he hears "math center." While there are piles upon piles of colored printer paper to work out problems on, calculators strewn about and 26 computers with Internet access, there's also a microwave oven, a refrigerator, a wizard hat (Mr. Earnest is a self-proclaimed Math Wizard), all kinds of "math toys" (such as large dice to aid in statistics and probability lessons) and for some reason an antique three-hole punch that weighs about five pounds and may very well be made out of cast iron.

Some of the staff at the cen-

ter are a bit concerned the school's administration doesn't see how vital their services are. "It's still not being recognized at the highest level," laments Mr. Chiang.

Since each student must sign in with his school ID upon entry and sign out upon exit, statistics are recorded and sent up the ladder. (No one knows exactly who sees these figures.) Additionally, students on the remedial level are asked to fill out a "Student Progress Record" at the end of their session. The information gets entered into the "Success Tracker" computer program. This is a way of monitoring the progress made (or not) during each visit.

"Most people say that we're really good in helping them. Only when it gets busy and people have to wait a long time that's when we get the bad reviews," said student aid Christine Sheh, a second-year student and media major.

Several professors encourage their students to utilize the center, including making a general announcement the first day of class.

As Ms. Brown states, "I try to tell the younger kids in my class I work two jobs, I have two children, plus a husband, I also have a niece who lives with us so I really have three kids, and I have a full-time job, and I work six days a week, and there's no excuse not to do it because the math lab is open six days a week, and they're open late night."

Sometimes at the end of the semester students who frequented the center will return to tell the coaches their grades which are usually at least passing. As Mr. Chiang affirms, "It's just icing on the cake!"

Affordable places to go to in the NY area for CC students

Svetlana Sforza
Campus News

Such a densely-populated area as this offers so many choices on activities that one might not know where to start. If you're a popular socialite like me, you'll want to go out, even in this freezing cold. Here are a few tried and true places that I personally recommend to check-out around this area.

Quite possibly the greatest place to have a birthday celebration is at Dave and Buster's, which houses more video games than a nerd's wildest dreams. Liquor, a full restaurant and Time Crisis all stand under this one, glorious roof. With air hockey, pool tables, bowling alleys and skeeball, the young and old, singles or couples, friends and families can all enjoy these activities equally. If you want to see where the nearest one is located by you, visit www.daveandbusters.com for addresses and hours.

When in doubt of what to enjoy, there's always the movies, offering to enthusiastically consume 2 hours of your life. You can look for student discount offers, and the matinees are always cheaper at local theaters. Or splurge and bedazzle yourself witnessing the wonders of IMAX theaters. Check www.fandango.com for show times and locations of the ones nearest to you.

Looking for Spring fashions? Head to any of our fine malls. Roosevelt Field and The Source (Fortunoff) are located on Old Country Road off the Meadowbrook Parkway. There's a D&B nearby, if you have any spare change leftover to

use there. If you venture further out on the Island, you can enjoy the new strips at Deer Park, along with a new movie theater as well.

A favorite mainstay of college kids everywhere are our local tea and coffee houses/shops. The Witch's Brew on Hempstead Turnpike serves organic, fair-trade tea and coffee alongside delicious vegan desserts. You can also head to the city on West Broadway to visit Sanctuary T. This cozy place hosts special teas (aren't I clever) including blooming ones, with an additional food menu.

Challenge your friends at one of the pool halls to escape the cold. Raxx of West Hempstead showcases lots of big-screen TVs with every single game on display. The Cue Bar, if you're done enjoying other activities on the other side of the street, is easy to stumble upon on Bell Boulevard. You could also drive up Francis Lewis Boulevard to frequent Millennium Pool Hall, if you can deal with us prep alumni and current students.

For an eating experience that you'll never forget, Long Island dons some of the finest eateries in the World. K'isso in Lake Success offers authentic Japanese food, with fresh...raw sushi, and delicious tonkatsu (fried pork) for us non-fish eaters. And for that classic Greek taste, head to Mythos on Northern Boulevard, where they even have their own homemade sausages. Ever try a Brazilian barbecue? Well, you can enjoy those festivities and

continued on page 12

Letters: Textbook prices

To the Editor: Very nice publication (vol. 1, issue 2). A lot of truth in the article on text book costs. If all professors and instructors were asked or were required to send the course syllabus via email to all enrolled students three weeks prior to the start of the semester, students would have time to shop around.

By choice I have been an adjunct for over 20 years. I have used the same basic physics text for my applied physics course. Basic mechanics does not change. Much to my surprise some students complained that the text was boring, that it had few colored pictures.

VA Moore
Assistant Prof., Adjunct
SUNY-Orange

To the Editor: I read Laura LaVacca's story about the outrageous price of textbooks. I couldn't agree more.

I attended college in the 1980's but wound up having to return to school this past semester. My first time around I wasn't too aware of the cost of books. I do remember the biggest and most expensive one

was Jansen's "History of Art," which every art student for decades has been required to buy. I have to say, whatever the cost was, it was worth it. I've had that book in my library since September of 1982, and I find myself referring to it every few years.

The other books were not textbooks and I seem to recall the prices being very reasonable. Perhaps in the \$20-30 range. However, this second time around, I was more aware of the cost of books, and I experienced all the things Laura wrote about in her article. My math textbook was 85 bones! I couldn't wait to sell that back at the end of the semester.

I'm in the process of self-publishing a book (my autobiography), and I did a lot of research on eBooks. To my surprise I never saw ONE student with a Kindle or Sony Reader at both Nassau C.C. and Adelphi University. Everyone had old-fashioned textbooks – which they paid far too much for.

Dave Paone
dptheac@yahoo.com

New films: ‘Oceans’

continued from page 4

What nerdy kid doesn’t dream at some point of becoming a super hero? What if you could push it so that it really happened and wasn’t just a dream? All it takes is for one young guy to fulfill his fantasy and make himself into a real super hero, with the clever name of “Kick-Ass.” Without any real superpowers, though, it doesn’t go as planned, so he finds a way to inspire others to become their own super heroes as well, including another young guy, an 11-year-old girl, and her father. Nicolas Cage, Aaron Johnson, Lyndsy Fonseca, Mark Strong, Christopher Mintz-Plasse, and Chloe Moretz star. “Kick-Ass” hits theaters on April 16.

The studio behind the mono-syllabic “Earth” is back again, this time with “Oceans.” Once again the release is meant to coincide with Earth Day. With three-quarters of the Earth’s surface being water, “Oceans” has a lot of territory to cover. The film explores the world below the surface, including the animals, both cute and not-so-cute. “Oceans” opens in theaters on April 22.

Jennifer Lopez doesn’t have a sterling resumé behind her acting career, especially once you consider the film “Monster-In-Law,” but she’s giving it a go again, this time in the romantic comedy “The Back-up Plan.” In a story that is up-to-date and surprisingly hasn’t been done yet, she stars as a single woman who is hearing the biological clock ticking. So determined to become a

mom, she gets artificially inseminated, but then meets the guy that could be Mr. Right. Not wanting to lose him, once she finds out she is indeed pregnant, she hides it from him. The “Back-up Plan” also stars Alex O’Loughlin and hits theaters on April 23.

I’m not sure how you can tell a character is too old to play Freddy Krueger, but apparently Robert Englund is either too old or has no desire left to play the sharp-fingered guy in a hat. In a reimagining of the 1984 version of the film, Jackie Earle Haley, better known as the hoodlum from “The Bad News Bears” in his teenage years, takes on Freddy. “A Nightmare On Elm Street” drops April 30.

The animals are striking back in a family comedy starring Brendan Fraser. He stars as an ambitious real estate developer whose newest subdivision pushes the animals out of their comfort zone. A clever raccoon leads the animals in an uprising as they aim to stop the development and teach the developer about taking care of the environment. Brooke Shields and Dick Van Dyke also star. “Furry Vengeance” premieres in theaters April 30.

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The application Jamie Smith filled out.

New to DVD: ‘Avatar’

continued from page 4

Some fans and critics didn’t think the film version of “The Lovely Bones” was worthy of Alice Sebold’s novel, but Stanley Tucci’s version of the middle-aged neighbor will creep you out nonetheless. The story follows a young girl who is abducted and killed, but to her family and the authorities, she is only missing. She is stuck in a world in between Earth and Heaven, and watches her family try to pick up the pieces of their lives. It hits stores on April 20.

The biggest blockbuster ever, “Avatar,” is being released on DVD already. It stars Sam Worthington, Zoe Saldana, Stephen Lang, Sigourney Weaver, and Michelle Rodriguez, and is written, produced, and directed by James Cameron. It’s more science fiction as we skip ahead to the year 2154 when humans are mining unobtainium, a pre-

cious metal, on the moon Pandora. Hybrid bodies are used by humans to interact with the Pandoran natives. Be the first in line to get “Avatar” when it hits the shelves April 22.

Films in 2009 were hard-pressed to come up with a more star-studded cast than this “It’s Complicated.” This comedy stars Meryl Streep, Steve Martin, Alec Baldwin, Mary Kay Place, Nora Dunn, and Rita Wilson.

Streep and Baldwin have been divorced for several years after his affair with a younger woman whom he eventually married. They rekindle their enjoyment of each other as Streep now becomes the other woman to the man she was married to for several years. They hide their relationship from his wife, their kids, and her possible new flame, Martin. This funny adult comedy appears in DVD on April 27.

continued from page 3

ers. The application seemed reasonable. It didn’t ask for a Social Security number or bank router number.

She dealt with a human by phone in Nebraska who gave her instructions on how to evaluate businesses. The purpose of the business, he said, was so that the corporations could conduct local quality control.

The \$2900 check sent to her was to be an advance. After all, she would need money to shop. For a busy college student, this seemed like a great opportunity.

“When you think of scams, you think of the elderly,” Smith said. “You don’t think it can happen to you.”

However, Smith didn’t want to vet this job with people close to her. “Normally, I’d talk to my father about something like this.

But I didn’t. I thought I could handle this all by myself.”

Now she’s warning others.

“I feel like an idiot, but I’d like to let other students know not to fall for anything like this and learn from my mistakes,” she said. “I thought if money cleared in the bank, it meant it was available – but that’s not actually the case with checks, especially from outside the state. They can end up bouncing a week or more later, and you’ve lost the money.”

She continued: “When you get a job, meet the person in person. Don’t do it online. Be sure to ask others for advice.

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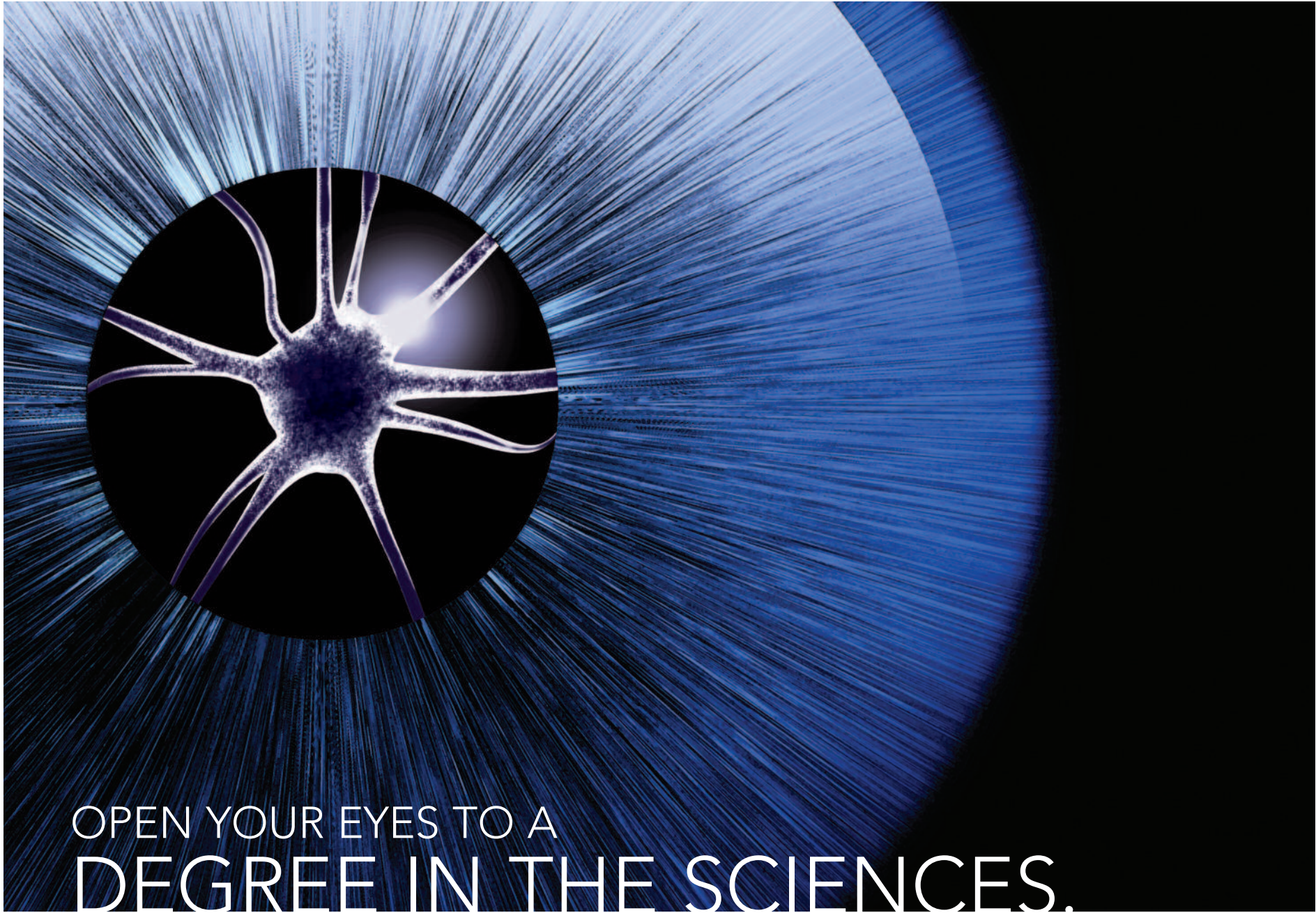
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Albany cuts (cont. from cover)

teachers and services for nursing students and others in the medical field to assure that health care in New York isn't negatively impacted."

Michael B., a student in Nassau County, also weighed in, "I think Governor Paterson needs to reevaluate the situation. This doesn't seem to be the best option. What does this mean for the reputation of CUNY and SUNY schools? We are going to have less programs and qualified people? And it'll cost more? Something's not making sense."

Even graduate students expressed concern. Jessica L., a graduate student at

Queens College expressed her concern saying, "It's scary. What's next? I'm a teacher, and as a professional I feel awful for these undergraduate students. At the same time, I feel bad for myself! I chose Queens College for its affordability. CUNY schools are known for that. What now?"

"What now?" seems to be the golden question. The future of education at CUNY and SUNY schools may be changed for the worse. Time will only tell if these budget cuts were the smartest decision.

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TV: Jane Lynch

Laura Tucker
Campus News

Jane Lynch has spent much of her career being nameless and only being known for a few key roles, such as the lesbian dog handler in the film "Best In Show," and as Steve Carell's boss in "The 40-Year-Old Virgin." But after her role as the cheerleading coach on "Glee," she's become much more of a household name and is in the enviable position to even turn roles down.

"Glee" debuted on Fox during the last season of "American Idol," always a prime time for any debut at the network. The series revolves around a high school glee club, and the drama and comedy that ensues through

the students' and teachers' connections. Not only was the show extremely popular in its first season, it was generally well-received by critics as well. The series won a Golden Globe Award for Best Television Series – Musical or Comedy, won a SAG Award for Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Comedy Series, as well as Satellite Awards for Best Television Series – Comedy or Musical, Best Actor for Matthew Morrison, Best Actress for Lea Michele, and Best Actress in a Supporting Role for Lynch.

Obviously as the awards show, the entire cast measures up, but Lynch stands out above them in this series that made her a household name. Her comedic timing is right on target here, just as it was in all her

prior roles. Her spin as Sue Sylvester, the head cheerleading coach, is one of the few roles in the film that doesn't require some type of musical background. Her character can be quite evil as she sets up the glee club to fail, again and again, but there's something about the way she does it, that makes it all just a bunch of fun. "Glee" will debut its second season on Fox in a special time period after a 90-minute episode of "American Idol" on April 13, then settles into its regular time period the following week.

With everything going so well for Lynch, she was able to let one of her other regular roles go. When "Party Down" has its season premiere on April 23 on Starz, it'll be without Lynch, who played Constance Carmell in the first season, then left with two episodes yet to be filmed. Constance was part of a catering team made up of aspiring actors,

writers, models, and musicians from Hollywood, who take on the catering just to pay the bills until the right gig comes along. Her roommate on the show, Bobbie St. Brown (Jennifer Coolidge), filled in for her in the catering for the remaining two episodes, but Coolidge left the series at the end of the season as well.

Joining the remaining cast of Adam Scott, Ken Marino, Ryan Hansen, Martin Starr, and Lizzy Caplan, will be Megan Mullally, better known as Karen Walker on "Will and Grace." Casting must have known that they had some big shoes to fill in Lynch's. After "Will and Grace" ended, her attempts at being a talk show host and continuing her sitcom success with "In the Motherhood" failed miserably, yet Mullally is a two-time Emmy Award winner and three-time SAG Award winner for her role as Karen.

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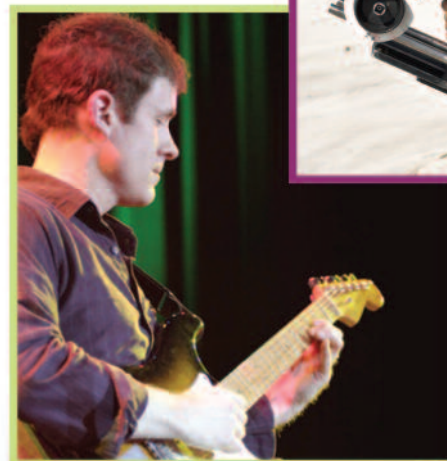
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When it's time to leave

continued from cover

must decide their next step. Transferring to a university is a common option among students. Karen Akukew, Transfer Counselor at Bunker Hill Community College in Boston, Massachutes, said she has noticed a marked increase in students who go on to a four year university as opposed to stopping their education with a two year degree.

Community colleges today, more than ever before, are faced with many unique challenges. Looming budget cuts, issues of understaffing and the need to provide creative class offerings that meet the needs of a diverse group of students are among a few of these challenges. Community colleges are also required to educate and assist students with planning and preparing for their future, all in a short two years. Graduation from a community college may mean immediate employment for some graduates, for others transferring is the next logical step. Transfer students require additional assistance from their advisors to prepare for their entrance into a four year school of their choice. This adds to the responsibility of

the community college faculty to help each transfer student determine a comprehensive plan for his future.

Nashville State Community College is one example of the many community colleges across the country that looks to not only educate their students but assist them with a strategic plan for their future. According to a recent press release, Nashville State Community College (NSCC) offers more than 80 programs of study. The school prides itself on high quality education which prepares its 9,300 students to either enter the workforce following graduation or transfer to a four-year school. Articulation agreements between colleges often bridge the gap for transfer students. Through a recent partnership, Nashville State Community College will now be teaming up with Ashford University through an articulation agreement. Participating students will be able to transfer up to 90 of their credits earned towards a bachelor's degree program either on-line or on-campus. According to Dr. Ellen Weed, vice president of NSCC, "Nashville State offers many associate of applied science degrees, and the Ashford agreement allows them to transfer their career/technical courses as well as their general education. These students will be grateful to have this additional choice."

Empire State College is a unique and popular choice for many transfer students. It is part of the State University of New York system. The degree programs offered at Empire State focus on flexible individualized programs that allow students to design their own program with the guidance of an academic advisor or mentor. The administrative office is located in Saratoga Springs, New York, however the campuses cross multiple locations to allow students to choose from on-line courses, distance learning or traditional classroom settings. Empire State College offers programs for associates, bachelors and masters degrees. The college is well known for being geared to adult learners and working people who require flexibility beyond the traditional classroom setting. Students can apply life credits, independent study experiences, and extensive transfer credits from other universities and combine these with course offerings to design a de-

gree program that is unique to them as a learner. Transferring from one college to another is just like starting the first day of school all over again. It opens the floodgates for worry and stress for many students. Preparing as much as possible for a transfer can help eliminate some of stress of the change. Having a general idea about what to expect can minimize some of the unknowns of a new college. The process of transferring happens in three very general steps: Before transfer, during transfer and after transfer. It sounds simple but the process for each step can be very complex.

Plan Ahead

Realistically, students should be thinking about their next step at the time they enroll in community college. Planning early allows time for error and correction. Two years fly by when you are in the midst of classes, books, papers and real life responsibilities. Before students realize it, they find that are faced with deciding what to do after community college is over. Hopefully, the planning process began long before graduation day. Keeping in mind a plan of

action can help keep the transfer process smooth and organized. Don't wait until the last minute and control the things you can. It is not uncommon that things go wrong, paperwork gets lost and applications get delayed. Plan well and always remain a step ahead of the process.

Choosing a School

Deciding on what university to attend after community college is a major piece of the transfer puzzle. There are so many factors that go into deciding on a university. Money, location, type of degree program, having the necessary number and the countable credits, all can factor into the success or failure of the transfer to the school of your choice. Research the schools you aspire to attend and talk to transfer and advisory staff about your goals. Waiting until the last minute to decide where you will be transferring could result in spending extra time and money and prolong earning your degree. Knowing the school you will be transferring to and the degree program you wish to enroll in arms you with the ability to know what is expected of you in terms of credits and classes.

Workshops and transfer fairs are offered during the school year at most community colleges. These forums are a way for students to look at prospective four year colleges. It is a great way to talk with college representatives face to face, ask questions and gather information about programs that are offered. It is highly recommended that students attend these workshops and fairs as they are offered, especially if they have not yet chosen a transfer school.

Work With Your Advisor and Transfer Counselor

Many community colleges including Hudson Valley Community College (HVCC) in Troy, New York, and Bunker Hill Community College in Massachutes offer the assistance of a transfer counselor to students. The role of a transfer counselor is to work with incoming and outgoing transfer students. This person answers questions and assists with all aspects of the transfer process. Transfer counselors and advisors are a key resource for transfer students.

According to Karen Akukew, who works as a Transfer Counselor at Bunker Hill Commu-

nity College, most transfer students have many questions about the transfer process. The common questions students ask of her are about transfer credits, how to choose and declare a major and what scholarship opportunities may be available to them to finance their education. Her role is to provide them answers to questions as guidance through the cumbersome transfer process.

A transfer counselor and an advisor play two separate roles in higher education. Advisors do the academic planning, such as helping students pick courses and identify courses that are transferrable. Transfer counselors focus on the actual process of transferring including the application process, states Akukwe. Students that work closely with an advisor and a transfer counselor have a planning advantage.

An advisor can assist with choosing the best school, identifying a degree program and keeping you on track with necessary credits. Certain courses are good to take at the community college level while other courses may not be transferable, so it is best to wait to take those until later. The transfer counselor can assist with the nuts and bolts of the process while the advisor assists with the specific requirements. Maintaining contact with your potential university and their expectations of transfer students can keep you on the right track during your two year curriculum.

Check on Your Aid Package

Financial aid packages differ from student to student. Awards, grants and

scholarships that you have been awarded for community college may not carry over to a transfer university. There may be an award application that you need to update or a recertification process for certain pieces of financial aid. Make an appointment with the financial aid office to review all of your paperwork prior to your transfer date. Taking care of all necessary paperwork early in your last semester allows time to work out any issues.

After finalizing your plans, make them happen. Once the grueling process of the decision-making is over, it's action time. The application process to a transfer school is similar to that of community college. Know the application deadlines and submit your application according to the timeline given by your transfer school. The application process will include many different pieces, such as transcripts, letters of recommendation and the completed application. Obtaining copies of your transcripts, degree and financial aid paperwork may not be possible until after you have graduated. Your community college will have methods for sending these on your behalf. Whenever possible keep copies of your personal paperwork.

Check on Your Transfer Credits.

Ideally you will have met with an advisor before enrolling in classes in your new university. Schedule a follow up appointment either before classes begin or immediately after. With your adviser, do a final review your transfer credits to determine if they all have transferred suc-

continued on page 14

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Great places to go Poetry Corner: ‘Space’

continued from page 5

tons of meat at Greenfield’s Churrascaria in Flushing. Trattoria L’Incontro (in Astoria) and Ciao Baby (with four locations on the Island) offers delicious Italian food in ridiculous portions, without fetching a high price. But, if you just want to grab a slice of Sicilian, the number 1-rated place for that is Umberto’s of New Hyde Park. I’ve personally brought patrons there to dine from Pennsylvania to Finland without any disappointment. And for your morning routine, stop at the Brooklyn Bagel and Coffee Factory in Brooklyn, right? Wrong! That’s also found in Astoria on Ditmars Boulevard, with a plethora of cream cheese and bagel flavors, along with other breakfast delights.

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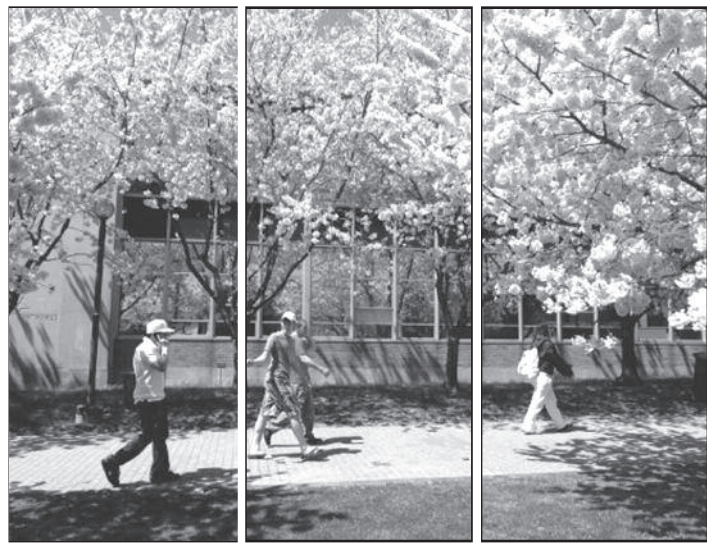


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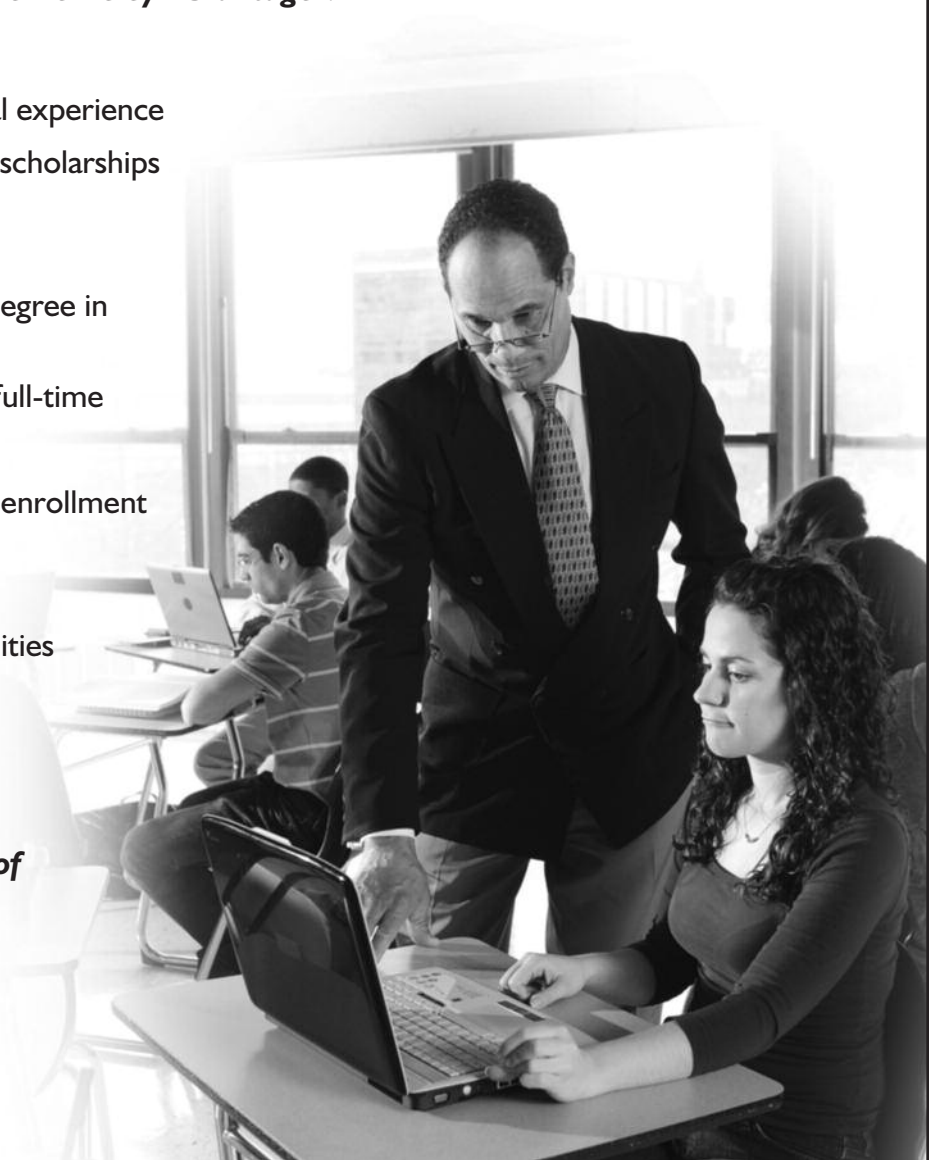
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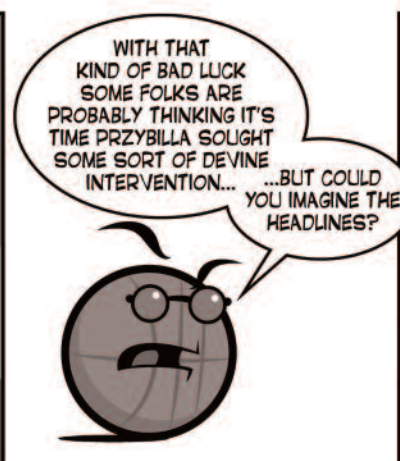
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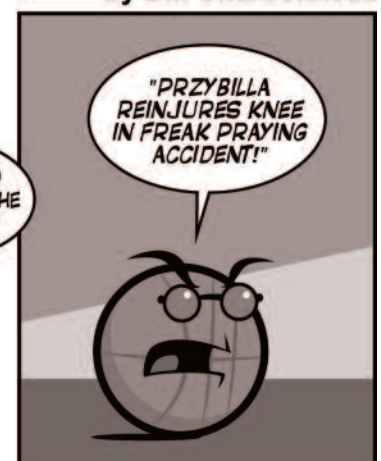
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by Bill Charbonneau



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Why can't colleges switch to wooden bats?

Zack Pumerantz
Campus News

The sound of a baseball hitting a bat is one of pure euphoria. Once prime contact has been made, the batter knows it, feels it in his veins. It's a unique feeling to know that the ball has made perfect contact with the bat in the sweet spot. The question then arises, how much of this sweet spot should exist? The debate regarding what type of bats to use in college baseball continues.

The issues with aluminum bats concern safety and tradition. With a larger sweet spot, aluminum bats produce the "trampoline effect," in which the ball explodes off the bat significantly faster than off a wooden bat. In being introduced to youth baseball in the early 1970s, it is curious as to why there are a limited number of tests regarding speed comparison. In 1977, aluminum bats were said to have a batted ball speed of 3.85 more than wooden bats, a substantial variance.

While the speed of the ball and the safety of the players in college is a main priority, tradition comes into play as well. In "Batting Around the Debate on Aluminum Versus Wood," Judith Stiles reminds readers of the olden days and the "no-hitters," kids not adept at hitting the baseball. Lacking supreme talent, mostly striking out and occasionally pushing a pop fly over the infield, these kids hoped for an equalizer. "Then along came lightweight aluminum bats in the 1970s, which gave lousy batters of all ages a better chance of getting a hit," Stiles wrote. In her article, she highlights Michael Kalontarov, a mechanical engineering major at The Cooper Union, who is attempting to design an aluminum bat with less power.

It seems to be a split dichotomy in that those who support the safety and speed issue don't see aluminum bats as a good fit in college baseball, while those who believe strongly in tradition see aluminum bats as a necessity in college baseball. "Aluminum bats help hitters but are a disadvantage to pitchers," says Josh Nethaway, a freshman catcher at the University at Albany. Originally from Fonda, New York, Nethaway believes the material of the bat significantly affects the at-bat. "A pitcher can make a good pitch in on the hands that would break a wood bat and induce an out but with an aluminum bat can get the ball to go far enough to get out of the infield for a hit," he says. "I think wood would be the better choice [for] college because it would give

pro scouts a better idea of what a player can do." Why not give scouts a better preview of players who will garner millions of guaranteed dollars when drafted? With major league teams investing so much money into these unknown commodities, they deserve a better look at these players in a season with wooden bats.

Baseball has always been a game of tradition, a family game. Hot dogs, peanuts and beer, it doesn't get better. The question lies in whether aluminum bats have earned a permanent stay. People might argue that wood is the conventional material used for bats and is deserving of a sole spot in the heart of the sport. Others believe that aluminum bats have earned their spot in college and youth ball.

"They should stick with aluminum," says Pete Eichner, a senior infielder at the University at Albany. With a contrasting opinion from those who believe solely in wooden bats, Eichner doesn't see a discrepancy in the effect of the ball off the aluminum bats and believes that aluminum bats are now a part of the game. "It's the way college baseball has been forever, and I don't like changing the game," he says. "I've played a lot of metal and wood bat baseball in my life and I've seen pitchers get hit the same way with both. They should definitely keep it."

If aluminum bats are seen as advantageous or unfair, they still do have the same effect on all batters. Pitchers may argue that any pitch can be punished with an aluminum bat, that the true talent of a batter is not displayed with the use of aluminum. It seems that the most logical argument regarding wooden bats rests in the major league scouts' views of a player, or rather a potential draftee. Wooden bats do give the scouts a better, truer look.

While change is unlikely to occur anytime soon, it is an idea to toy around with. How much would wooden bats alter the game of college baseball and how might that affect the potential drafting position of superior college athletes? With a change in material, talent would appear to deviate, with less talented batters dropping off significantly and talented batters hitting more line drives, as opposed to monstrous home runs. Power numbers would end up dropping as well. Is that what we want the game to do?

Leave aluminum bats; they have flourished for over thirty years. For now, ignorance is bliss.

When it's time to transfer to a 4-year school

continued from page 11

cessfully. Review your class schedule and compare it to your degree requirements. Ensure that your plan still makes sense for you. If you need to change something, there is usually time to do this in the first week. Dropping or adding classes during the semester can result in a fee or being shut out of a necessary class. Although your advisors are there to assist, it is ultimately the student's responsibility to know their educational plan and advocate for themselves. Advisors have many students with multiple different circumstances to keep track of. Students should be on top of their own plan and ensure that it meets the requirements to ensure on-time graduation.

Complete Your Paperwork

The paperwork process can be cumbersome for transfer students. You want to ensure you understand all of the necessary paperwork needed to transfer. Since many community colleges are open access it makes the application process easier for students transferring in to a community college. "A transfer to a four year college is different," states Akukwe. "There is a more intensive process for transfer to a four year university." The application process may require an extensive application, transcripts, letters of recommendation and an entrance essay or exam. Your academic advisor can ensure your credits are in order while your transfer counselor works to help you complete all of the required documentation. Complete all paperwork neatly and ensure that it is submitted by the deadline

Get Familiar and Get Involved

Arrange for a tour of the campus or attend transfer student orientation. Changing schools is stressful. Arm yourself by being familiar with your new environment; this can ease the stress of a new campus. If you can't take a tour or visit before classes start, ask if a campus tour can be arranged early after you start classes. Minimally you should be able to get to the campus early to do a self guided tour before classes begin. Familiarizing yourself with your surroundings can help your comfort level.

Getting involved with extracurricular activities, clubs or study groups on your new campus can always help to ease the discomfort of starting all over in a new environment. Finding ways to meet people and develop connections outside of your classes can make a difference in the success of your college experience. You can look into these activities before the first day of classes. Read the bulletin boards, look at the school's website or talk with your advisor about opportunities to get involved.

It's never too early to begin the transfer process. "If you know your intention is to transfer, start declaring your intent to transfer upon entry to community college," states Akukwe. She offers an additional piece of advice for transfer students. "Start planning early so you have a chance to visit different schools and choose one that offers the most beneficial program."

He did it again!

Congrats to Nassau Marketing Prof. Jack K. Mandel, who again was the winner of Long Island Press' "Best of Long Island" poll. Mandel has a BBA and MBA from Baruch College and has taught his popular courses at Nassau since 1978. He also has been named an Outstanding Teacher by the NYS Association of Two-Year Colleges and has one of ratemyprofessors.com's best ever ratings!



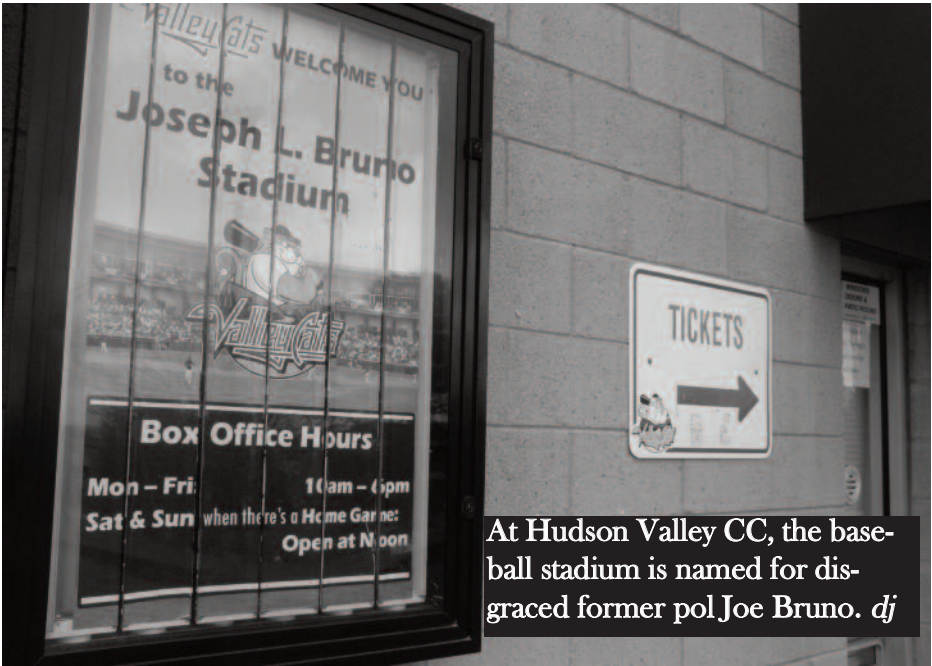
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At Hudson Valley CC, the baseball stadium is named for disgraced former pol Joe Bruno. *dj*

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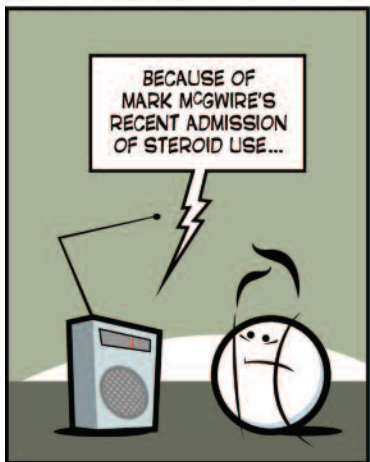
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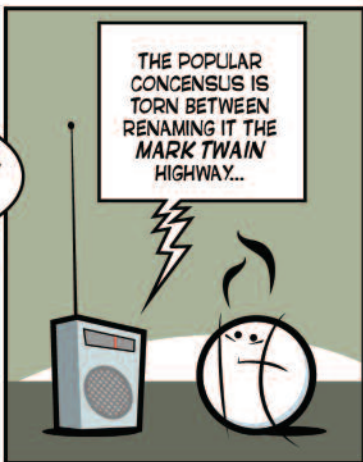
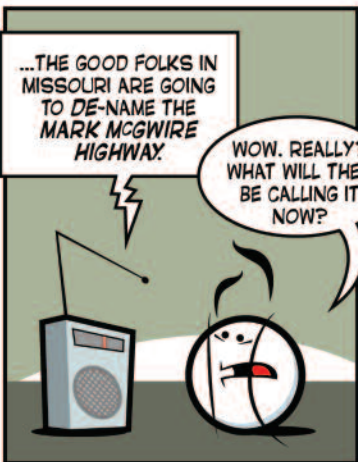


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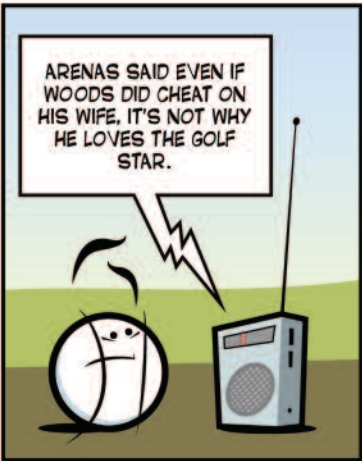


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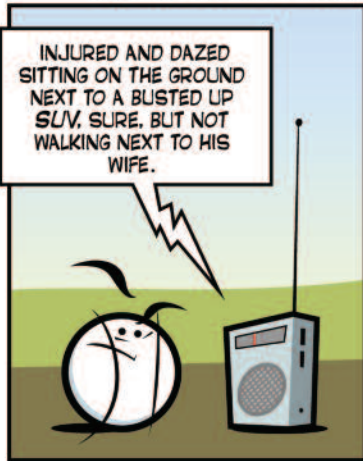
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