

The Kingsman

Spring 2017- Issue 12

Tuesday, May 16, 2017



Photo credit to Liliana Bernal

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THE KINGSMAN
THE VOICE OF BROOKLYN COLLEGE

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Annual Faculty Book Party Features Over 50 Publications

Brooklyn College's 25th annual book party honored over 50 books published this year, at a party held May 9, attended by campus faculty. Among the faculty who wrote or edited the books were Puerto Rican and Latino Studies Chair Alan A. Aja, sociology professors Tammy L. Lewis and Kenneth Gould, and English professor Helen Philips. With a complete listing of this year's faculty and staff books available to the public on the college website, Brooklyn College President Michelle J. Anderson said, "I am moved by the ways in which your work celebrates the vibrant intellectual life we enjoy here at Brooklyn College."

- Danielle Kogan, Features Editor

NY Emmy Awards Won By CUNY TV

After a record-breaking 11 nominations at the New York Emmy Awards on May 6, CUNY TV was recognized for Best Interview/Discussion series and in Graphics:Animation. The two shows recognized were "Theater Talk" and "Black America", both of which helped CUNY round up to their 16 awards earned since the initiation of the program. Chancellor of CUNY James B. Milliken responded to the station's success when he said the nominations, "underscore what an asset this station is, for The City of University of New York and for the city and state. We are honored that the New York Emmys continue to recognize CUNY TV's important, relevant and creative contributions." Both shows address communities with guest stars and profiles relevant to the diverse CUNY community, with "Black America" being one of the more recent additions to the program and started in February 2016.

- Danielle Kogan, Features Editor

Documentation of Muslim Ban Released at School of Law

A briefing paper created with the help of Amnesty International documents by the Creating Law Enforcement Accountability and Responsibility (CLEAR) project was released May 12 at the CUNY School of Law, tracking the effects of President Trump's immigration policy. Although temporarily halted by U.S. courts, it is slated for judicial review before two federal courts of appeals in the future. The research paper is a collection of first-hand accounts which include students and couples, attempting to capture the wide breadth of people affected by the policy. Working to serve mainly Arab, Muslim, and South Asian communities disparately affected by legislative policy, CLEAR is has made their research available on the CUNY portal.

- Danielle Kogan, Features Editor

Anthropologist to Get Distinguished Alumnus Award at Commencement

By Derek Norman
Managing News Editor

Freddy Peccerelli, a forensic anthropologist and human rights advocate, will be receiving this year's Distinguished Alumnus award at the Brooklyn College Commencement ceremony at the Barclay Center.

Peccerelli, who graduated in 1996 with a B.A. in anthropology, has been nationally recognized for his work with the non-government organization, the Forensic Anthropology of Guatemala (FAFG), in which he was a founding member. The organization garnered acclaim for its hand in exhuming the thousands of mass graves of which all were victim to Guatemala's 36-year-long armed conflict

The conflict consumed the lives of an estimated 200,000 people, who were presumed dead or vanished, as a direct result of the internal

fighting between the Guatemalan armed forces and left-wing guerilla groups. Peccerelli, with a fierce personal connection, has been directly affected by the conflict, as his family was forced to flee its home country when he was 9 years old.

Now, roughly 37 years later, the Brooklyn College alumnus has done extensive work for his home country – work that resulted in dialogue with victim families and searches for loved ones, requests from rural communities to help bring authoritarian military officers of the era to justice – and in some cases, providing testimony to International Criminal Court and Inter-American Court of Human Rights, after witnessing atrocities of the conflict firsthand.

Peccerelli, having served as a key witness himself in cases against heads of the military dictatorship in Guatemala National Court, has gained national recognition by news



Freddy Peccerelli, recipient of the 2017 Distinguished Alumnus Award. / Brooklyn College

media, as well as has been named by CNN as “one of the top 50 Latin American Leaders of the New Millennium.”

The former Brooklyn College anthropology student had, since initial return to his native Guatemala for anthropological service, dedicated his life to upholding human rights and worked to diligently and drastically serve justice against the humanitarian crimes of his native

Guatemala - as he uses his one true weapon, the study of anthropology – to cast light, dig for and lift justice from the historical soils.

Peccerelli will join the graduates at the commencement on May 30 to join the ranks of distinguished alumnus of Brooklyn College and claim his award as the recipient of 2017.

Students Outraged at Denial of Extra Grad Tickets

By Derek Norman
Managing News Editor

Students Friday evening took to social media in an uproar upon hearing that each student was denied the possible two extra tickets to the graduation commencement, just over two weeks away.

The 2017 Brooklyn College Commencement is being held for the first time this year at the Barclay Center in downtown Brooklyn, which is proving to disrupt annual student/department traditions, office expectations and graduating students' plans for guests that they had hoped to attend.

The Barclay Center seats 18,103. Combining the undergraduate/graduate commencements has filled up just about 16,000 seats, and the remaining are to be used for the stage and other space requirements.

For this event, the capacity is maxed at approximately 16,000 seats. Brooklyn College had initially set a lower capacity, but based on the increased number of students requesting to participate, opened up the seating behind the stage. To date, there are over 3,100 students requesting to participate, 230 faculty members as well as approximately 100 reserved seats for platform party guests, donors, Brooklyn College Foundation members, Alumni Association Board Members, and guests of the 50th Anniversary class.

“I understand the frustration that students have about not getting the additional tickets,” said Dean Ronald Jackson in response to the student outrage. “However, we continued to

receive requests from graduates as late as today, and have been working to accommodate them although the deadline was April 9th.”

Dean Jackson noted that they had even rented additional chairs because they exceeded what the Barclay Center had in stock.

One student noted that the promotional ad for the commencement celebrates Bernie Sanders more than it does Brooklyn College, and one student mentioned that the three minute speech given by members of student government will be given the boot because of “time constraints.” The CLAS student government president, whose tradition it is to give a brief speech, has been cancelled.

Despite student outrage and contradictory to voiced opinions now, Brooklyn College said that most preferred the Barclay Center. According to a poll conducted by the Brooklyn College facebook page, “A poll was emailed to all graduating students in October 2016, and 82 percent of respondents said they preferred commencement to be held off campus.”

The most significant problem students are faced with is having to cancel plans with family members who they were expecting to attend. Many are improvising by having children sit on laps, but most will have to wait outside.

The Brooklyn College “Commencement Team” did not make a comment when asked about the issue, but forwarded a formal contact form instead.

Rickety Residence Hall: Students Upset With Dorming Quality



Standard Layout of a College Dorm Room. / Creative Commons

By Nerea Blanco
Staff Writer

While it's convenient to be two blocks from campus and nice to be in the same building as all your friends, the cons heavily outweigh the pros of living at the Brooklyn College Residence Hall, according to current and past residents of the building.

Three out of five stars on google isn't usually that bad, though reading through the reviews leads you to realize most of the positive reviews are from staff and parents (who never actually stayed in the building). And while many issues have to do with staff, a lot has to do with the condition of the building itself. Kolaiah Stewart said in a one-star review, “This place needs to be torn down and rebuilt.”

Most residents' problems began as soon as they entered the building. Move-in day for college dorm students should be a great experience. You're living on your own

for the first time, your parents help you move in, you meet your roommates...well at the Residence Hall it wasn't as easy as it should have been.

“Move in day was a disaster, it was like there was only one person working in the office to get everyone their room keys!” said Stacy Torgerson, the mother of a resident. “Then, when my daughter finally got her key, the room was so filthy, we had to clean every sticky drawer, cabinet, floor, and even the walls were marked up and had paint chipping off.”

Lauren Stimola and Maddy Littlefield, both freshman, agreed. Stimola explained that there were clumps of hair everywhere in the bathroom, and the entire room was filthy. Littlefield said that along with the uncleanliness of the room that there were marks and inappropriate drawings on her walls.

Stimola also said flooding (a

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Forever Upward, Thanks to Brooklyn



Photo credit to Liliana Bernal

By Paul Frangipane
Managing Digital Editor

“Gould has Regrets on Contract While Faculty Votes to Strike,” a headline I coupled with a photo and caption, “This semester has been filled with highs and lows, but immense growth.” Now President Anderson Yells Transparency with All eyes on her, and I’ve become a whole different person.

Immense growth doesn’t do a jus-

tice. Because of my time at Brooklyn College and the hours spent working at the Kingsman, I’d say I’ve undergone creative transformation and I owe every step of the evolution to those around me.

I came into Brooklyn College inside of a shell, ready to skate by with no tampering in extracurricular and throw myself into the job market upon graduation with nothing more than a Bachelor’s of the Arts degree and some motivation that

had been brewing in my heart for years.

If it weren’t for two of the greatest professors in my life, Paul Moses and Ron Howell, I wouldn’t have realized the importance of seeking independent guidance outside of the classroom because I was never comfortable doing that before. Now I feel that I could go to them for the rest of my life if I’m faced with that one problem that can only be answered by my mentors.

If it weren’t for my fellow editor and great friend, Derek Norman,

I might still be attempting to get articles published in the Excelsior and getting frustrated when they didn’t make it. Journalism is a job in which you have to talk, and Derek really likes to talk, certainly more than me, but the one thing I really love to do, is tell stories. He helped me realize that the fear of engaging with people is not even close to worth the exhilaration of finishing a

great story with a tooth-filled smile across from an audience of glowing and sometimes deeply-affected individuals.

All this time I had been studying to be a journalist, but I was never truly what I wanted to be. I travelled down to the Caribbean heat of Cuba to report in a language I hadn’t even fully grasped at the time, I went to South America to work with my favorite journalist, who is now my wife and the first person to tell me no matter how many times I denied it, that I already was a journalist.

I depend on people in this life, and if it wasn’t for all the caring people in my travels, I believe I would just be an image of my surroundings, with shallow depth just soaking in the most basic of facts around me. My time at Brooklyn College has made me realize that I’m one of the luckiest people I know. Because although I work hard and will not stop until I achieve my goals, this college and the people that have surrounded me sit on both of my shoulders and all say every day, you can do it.

Paul Frangipane TKTKTKTKT

Until We Meet Again, Fare Thee Well

By Derek Norman
Managing News Editor

One last time, will I stain my fingertips with the still-wet ink of a Kingsman newspaper fresh off the press in the early campus-morning with the bells ringing triumphantly in the background. Finally, I’ll take a breath of relief after the tumultuous urgency of seeking a story, snatching it out of motion and molding it into something tangible; our little-renowned but beloved by few, campus newspaper.

I have changed since arriving at Brooklyn College. With every encounter from staff to professors of all departments, from the security officers to administration, in every fleeting exchange of words or simple wave, I truly believe I have grown to be a better person for having been here.

In journalism, I have found my calling. There is something so deeply profound in the chase for news. To seek truth and truth only, to capture and craft it, and share it with the world is an act that I have almost come to feel as humanly divine. I was reminded recently of something profound. That news is not something that can be produced and there is never a finished product. It is organic and alive, ever-changing and indelibly woven into the very fabric of the life experience.

And if I can live my life toying and shaping and playing with the most adventurous, dramatic, exciting and significant moments of history, then I’m all in with no turning back. Have the devil roll out the scroll, hand me the quill pen and point where to sign.

Brooklyn College has given me the perfect experience. My professors all have been some of the most capable, experienced and genuine people that I have ever met. I am crossing the finish line not drained and tired, but eager, excited and confident that wherever I may land, I will be pretty damn alright.

You taught us that patience, compassion and humility is what will carry us. You taught us that diligence, precision and thoroughness will direct us. And you taught us that passion, justice and truth will drive us. For that, thank you.

As for the future, nothing is certain and there is no such thing as a guarantee. But I’m proud to know that I, along with many I’ve met along the way, will tie up our boots, slip on our gloves and trek into the depths of hell with the utmost veracity and fierceness to seek the truth and the story that will write the next few pages of history. Our mission will forever be from here on out: to hold those in power accountable, to seek justice in the form of an honest recognition, to serve the common man

whose voice has been lost in all the noise of everyday life, to provide a platform to those forgotten, destitute and underserved; to cast light to the shadows.

In trying to think of a characteristic goodbye, I found this passage by J.D. Salinger... “When I was all set to go, when I had my bags and all,

I stood for a while next to the stairs and took a last look down the goddam corridor. I was sort of crying. I don’t know why. I put my red hunting hat on, and turned the peak around to the back, the way I liked it, and then I yelled at the top of my goddam voice, ‘Sleep tight, ya morons!’ I’ll bet I woke up every bastard on the whole floor. Then I got the hell

out. Some stupid guy had thrown peanut shells all over the stairs, and I damn near broke my crazy neck.”

They say goodbye is both the emptiest and fullest of all human messages. So until we meet again, fare thee well.



Photo credit to Liliana Bernal

A Goodbye From One of Our Own

By Paul Moses
*Advisor and
 Professor of Journalism*

My name appears in every issue of the Kingsman – and yet I haven't written a story, sold an ad or delivered a bundle of papers.

I don't do much of anything, really: I offer free advice, to the extent the staff wants it. That's because I'm the faculty advisor, and this is a student-run newspaper. I've played this role most years since I joined the faculty of the Journalism Program in 2001 after 23 years in daily journalism.

But now that I am retiring from teaching (and beginning a third career back where I started, as a freelance writer), I asked the editors if I might write a farewell column. They were nice enough to agree.

Some colleges run their student newspapers through the journalism department. But I think it's best for student media to be the independent voice of the students, not run by their profs.

A major part of a journalist's job is to hold those in authority accountable, and that's why it's important to have a news media as independent as possible.

The Kingsman has a strong record of accountability journalism this year. A few stories even got imme-

diately results. Kingsman stories led CUNY to correct a problem with the CUNYFirst system that had caused teachers to misidentify transgender students in some classes. Another story led the college to release more data about campus crime reports than it had in the past.

There was a story about the loss of the lay advocate program, which once provided students with legal assistance. Other stories documented the poor physical condition of the campus: broken clocks, suspect water fountains, dormant security cameras, malfunctioning bathrooms.

I admit to getting vicarious pleasure from all this – it puts me back in the newsroom. Of all the activities I've been involved in at BC over the past 16 years, advising the Kingsman is my favorite.

I especially enjoy it when the students ask me how to get an elusive story. It's a great chance to teach. I give the same advice I would have given the reporters when I was city editor at Newsday. What I mean is that although I am proud to work for Brooklyn College, I've never skewed my advice to protect anyone from truthful reporting in the student papers.

College students are quick to catch on to hypocrisy, and I would have lost credibility as a journalism

professor if I ever gave anything but solid journalistic advice. Besides, the tough-minded but fair reporting student journalists do is a service to the college.

That's what journalism is all about – and our country seems to be relying more than ever on reporters to dig up the truth.

That starts at campus papers like the Kingsman and Excelsior. It's a good bet that the students you see coming up with big campus stories today will be doing the same in the future for major news organizations. One of the great pleasures of teaching in the Journalism Program and advising the Kingsman is that I've gotten to follow the success of so many alumni.

So I read former editor-in-chief Elizabeth Elizalde '15 in the Daily



Photo Courtesy: Paul Moses

News, and the coverage editor Rachel Silberstein '12 is doing from Albany for Gotham Gazette. Or editor Laura Albanese '06, a sports writer for Newsday. Editor Brandon Bain '04 left a reporting job at Newsday to be a successful jazz singer – and I got to see him perform in Jazz at Lincoln Center. The list is long. Quite a few Excelsior staffers I know through my classes belong on it, too.

But the editors haven't given me the space for that and, as I said, it's their paper.

Do you want to write like a King?

Layout Editor: Responsibilities of this position are to do the layout for the paper every week. The person applying should be well versed in Indesign, and be able to make headlines and captions for stories without them. \$70 an issue

Managing News Editor: The person in this position is responsible for writing and editing stories that the paper receives each week. They need to produce at least one news piece a week, and remain in contact with staff writers who would like to write for this section.

Email: Kingsmanbc@gmail.com to apply. \$100 an issue

Email Kingsmanbc@gmail.com to apply.

Residence Hall Cont'd:

CONTINUED FROM P. 3

common occurrence in residence's rooms) has been occurring in her room. "Every time it rains for more than a day or two, my bedroom ceiling leaks consistently until the rain stops. To fix it, the maintenance man just adds another layer of spackle on top of the hole." She said this happens to her room often, in the bathroom as well.

The ceiling above her shower is covered by a wooden board that would drop water down the wall whenever the resident on the floor above her showered. Eventually, mold started coming down with the water and the wooden board started falling apart too. To fix the issue, the maintenance sprayed the mold with some bleach and replaced the wooden board with a plastic one. "This plastic board is bigger and makes water leak even outside of the shower onto the bathroom floor, as well as onto my body when I shower," said Stimola.

Emily Harmse, a senior, has also had a negative experience with mold in her bathroom since August. "The ceiling above the shower has been falling down, there is visible mold, maintenance has had to fix it about four or five times because they haven't been fixing it properly," Harmse said. Along with the mold, many students have had issues with flooding. Nine out of 12 students spoken to reported to have had issues with flooding in their rooms.

A leak in Stimola's room caused water to drip down from the upper room into the power circuit. This resulted in Stimola and her roommates fearing a fire or being electrocuted. "Maintenance did not come to resolve the problem until over 24 hours later," said Stimola. They lived in darkness for almost two days.

Though that is just one of many safety concerns in the building. Harmse says her room does not even have a smoke detector. Many other residents had them without batteries installed, and had to struggle to climb up on chairs and stools to install the batteries themselves.

"For how much it costs to live in the building, you would expect it to be in better condition, especially for only being a few years old," said Phoebe Collins, a freshman. Collins lives in a single room with a shared kitchen/bathroom that costs \$6,995. To live in a fully shared room (the cheapest option), it costs \$5,950 a semester. Many other students have said they were "outraged" at the price of the building because of the awful condition and how poorly the

Home is Where the Heart is, Students Share Holiday with Shelter Mothers

By Derek Norman
Managing News Editor

On Mother's Day this past Sunday, joyful women gleamed as their smiling children excitedly piled cake and brownies onto their plates, each woman holding a hand-crafted card and care package. The holiday-moment was near perfect despite a painful circumstance; having to celebrate in a homeless shelter.

Help 1 is a non-profit human services organization that helps house homeless families and aims to transition them to permanent housing. Located in Brownsville, Brooklyn, the organization hosted members of the Alpha Sigma Zeta sorority, who provided Mother's Day cards and a dessert brunch to the families staying there.

"This is us going back to the roots of what a sorority is supposed to be about," said Akelia Campbell, a business major and member of the sorority. "We want to put ourselves out there and show people that no matter who you are and where you're from, or the situation you're in, there will always be people out there that want to help."

Alpha Sigma Zeta is a multicultural sorority that champions itself on empowering women. In the future, they are planning to launch a program that will be known as FEM, or Female Empowerment through Mentorship, which will conduct workshops and address different women's issues each month.

Inside the dining hall of the shelter, steel-framed cribs lined the back wall, an impromptu organizing strategy that added a fitting fixture to the atmosphere. One member of the sorority, Shatine Houston, stood helping serve the sweets, six months pregnant and feeling the weight of her first Mother's Day.

"I like to see these kids coming out and running around,

it's so nice," said Houston, a 2014 alumna and head of philanthropy for the Alpha Sigma Zeta. "Life is hard and if you could think about other people, definitely help them. You only get one life, so make a difference for someone when you can."

At a workshop few days previous, a handful of sorority girls and members of the CUNY EDGE program crafted about 100 unique cards and equipped them with care packages containing hygiene products. Some students of the CUNY EDGE program felt obligated, as all have felt



100 cards made by sorority members and students to be given to homeless mothers. / Derek Norman

the adversity of struggling financially.

The CUNY EDGE program is a partnership between CUNY and the New York City Human Resources Administration that provides undergraduate students on public assistance supplemental resources and support needs to ensure their graduation. Partnered with other campus offices, like BC Bound, the health clinic, food pantry and student affairs, the students have access to needed resources.

At Brooklyn College alone, over 1,700 students have applied for public assistance. Many of whom also deal with a wide-range of issues like homelessness, domestic violence, veteran affairs and immigration status.

"We have a lot of students at Brooklyn College that are living in shelters themselves, and many don't know this," said Corrine Cashin, Assistant Director of the CUNY EDGE program at Brooklyn College and who volunteered to take part in the brunch. "More than half of my students that helped make these cards are in shelters and they specifically told me to let the people I meet here today know that they could be looking toward college. No matter how

little my students have, they always look to share. And that is something to celebrate."

The CUNY EDGE program itself, faces issues in trying to provide services to students who need them. The program is only budgeted for

90 students, but serves 171. Others are ineligible unless they are on cash assistance, so relying on food stamps alone does not qualify a student. Some students may make just slightly over the threshold and disqualify their eligibility.

As for students of the CUNY EDGE, helping provide the women and children of the Brownsville

shelter with a decent Mother's Day was encouraging, especially as the compassion came through connection. The students, who did not attend the brunch, wished for their advisor to relay the message that a college education is not out of the question, regardless of financial status.

"Our students have had their power turned off and they are on the Dean's List with 3.8 GPA's," said Cashin. "So add everything that it takes to be a college student and add to that: children, and housing insecurity, and medical issues. And you just don't know who's in that situation. Don't assume that the person sitting next to you has so much, because a lot of people take a lot of time and effort to be where they're at and they should never be stigmatized."

The program also assists those after graduation. It weans the student off the assistance in hopes that they are financially secure enough to build themselves as independent. In one case, a girl was cut short of her assistance and had to take her issue to a Fair Hearings court. But in most cases, the students are successful. Cashin will see several dozen of her students graduate this semester.

The celebration continued as people came and went consistently throughout the early afternoon, some still in pajamas as to assume their day did not hold much, and some dressed as if they were late to a brunch of their own. All shared the brandishing of a smile on the seasonal spring day.

"I just wanted to give back to my community, and that fact that I'm doing this and that I'm here," said Houston, as her eyes welled with tears recalling her own bout with homelessness. "I've lived through this and I want them to know that they'll be fine. They're living for their kids at this point. And that alone, living for that... they should be fine."

-Shatine Houston

Thesis Film Spotlights: Coup De Grâce and Boy Prom



By Dominick
Famularo
Columnist

Coup De Grâce

A good film has high stakes, meaning that the characters have a lot to lose. Very often these stakes are fabricated. Whether it's a life or death situation or something as small as losing a job, good filmmaking is lying very well. Breaking that norm, Coup De Grâce, tells us the almost true story of a young woman who, after finding out she's adopted, has to choose between her adopted upper class life, or her real mother who she doesn't know.

Frieda Sitt brought this story to life after a conversation with her friend got her filmmaking gears turning. "I was pulling from things in real life. Some of these conversations in the film are taken almost directly from actual conversations." Honoring the truth behind this story, Frieda crafted characters and plots that accurately represent the difficulties between looking for something new, and finding that what you have is good enough. At the center of this short film lies a

remarkably honest decision, which makes this stand out from a lot of other student films. Frieda not only tells the story beautifully, both in her language and shot composition, but also sparks conversations about important personal decision making.

As a female filmmaker, Frieda took it upon herself to recruit as many women as she could to make this film. Not only is the cast entirely female, but the crew featured many incredibly talented women. "Women aren't accurately represented on screen because there aren't enough female film makers. Once you get women behind the camera, we will be able to show real female characters" Frieda said.

Besides writing, Frieda also directed and edited her thesis. Taking on so many jobs could be challenging for a student filmmaker, but her credits on dozens of other short films and her talent as a writer/director helped make an outstanding project with an honesty not often seen in student films.

Coup De Grâce will premiere at the Brooklyn College Film Festival on May 31st and will be submitted to other festivals after that. For more

information on Coup De Grâce or to contact Frieda Sitt, email her at CoupDeGraceShortFilm@gmail.com

Boy Prom

Great comedies do way more than make you laugh. Using humor as a tool to say something bigger about social topics has been proven as a very successful way to reach a large audience. Boy Prom, a comedy about a prom exclusively for guys, takes a look at masculinity and the old notion that every guy has to be a manly man.

Benjamin Wiseman, the writer and director of Boy Prom, was always fascinated by the male role in society. "My mom raised me with romantic comedies and I would feel embarrassed to admit that I had emotions when I watched those movies. If I cried, or felt for the characters, I was afraid people would use that to make fun of me." But in the process of developing and creating Boy Prom, Ben decided to tackle those feelings head on. "There's a lot of social issues that need to be addressed, and there's no better way to do that than laughing while we talk about them."

Behind the explosive humor of

Boy Prom, there lies a real statement about men in our society. "I was nervous about writing this because there's a very thin line between making fun of homophobic people, and being homophobic yourself." Although Ben was nervous about that, his film doesn't toe that line at all. Boy Prom proves that tackling social topics in a comedy can be done, and I hope Ben continues to do so.

Although Ben considers himself a writer first, he also directed and edited his thesis film. His favorite part of the filmmaking process was working with his cast and crew. "I love how collaborative it was. I like having a small cast and crew, and letting input flow in from all directions. Everyone brought something new to the story, which is what makes film so great."

"Don't be afraid to laugh at yourself," Ben added, which couldn't be more appropriate. Boy Prom will premiere at the Brooklyn College Film Festival on May 31st and will be submitted to other festivals after that. To contact Ben Wiseman about Boy Prom or anything else, find him on Twitter @BennyTheWiseman.

The Price Tag For A Film Major: Students Spend Thousands on Projects

By Dylan Campbell
Editor-in-Chief

Many ambitious Brooklyn College film department students are putting hundreds and even thousands of dollars into an anthology of projects that they say are the key to their futures.

"What I've been told from other students that have graduated is that your thesis film is the main thing you put on your resume...this is everything I've learned in those four years packed into one 10 minute film," said Mikey Ruggiero, a senior who's thesis film costed him \$3,000 and took three days in an upstate location with an 18-person crew to film.

The time and money put in to make the short isn't just for a grade to Ruggiero. Instead it is his first chance to make a name for himself, and signal, from the plethora of production graduates, that he is talented.

"So if you apply to a bunch of festivals and your film gets a lot of backing by people that like it, then if someone that is looking for help, they would say, 'oh hey, I saw this film, this guy that directed it is really good. Maybe we'll hire him on as an assistant producer or an assistant director,'" said Ruggiero. "It's kind of our department's way of getting your foot in the door after college."

According to students, higher production value means an easier time producing. More crew means a faster shoot but also requires more

money spent on food and transportation. Pouring more money into the project usually allows the director the satisfaction of an end result closer to the vision they want to launch their careers. But it isn't impossible to get a high-quality thesis on a budget.

"Don't get me wrong some of the people that spend close to \$10,000 or more may not come out of it with a good film ... if your story isn't interesting, or the way you edit it together isn't right, then you might end up with a flop," said Ruggiero. "I've seen some great low budget films that didn't come close to reaching \$1,000. It depends on who the director is..."

Though the thesis film is the largest and most individual assignment, it will not be the only place where students spend money. With each production comes the choice of how much money to devote and what aspects to allocate it to.

Each student will complete at least two short films, two scene recreations and his or her thesis film. They will also learn how to use sound, camera and editing equipment. While the department provides free rentals for certain sound and camera equipment and designated areas for editing, any other production aspects come out of the student's pocket.

Students typically spend at least \$200 to \$400 each on scene recreations, \$240 on a light meter, \$60 to \$70 on a portable drive and even more on their props and sets.

Some students can not afford cost-

ly projects and are forced to skimp and save to find the money. Spending thousands by her junior year, Krista Cohen said the major has put a strain on her wallet and her personal life.

"I've had to take off work so much to put time into my projects, and then I've had to pour money into those projects," said Cohen with an exasperated sigh. "My family, I haven't seen them in weeks. I've been staying in Brooklyn to keep up with my work and be involved in projects."

She says the productions she works on, along with the money and time she puts into them, are important stepping stones. The people she connects with and the reel she builds are what will make her career.

"I do see it as an investment," said Cohen. "The film industry in New York is really booming. It's worthwhile for us to put down the money now while we are students so we can hit the ground running after graduation."

Not all students see the worth in putting money into these projects. Funke Adeniyi is a junior in the department who says she has spent at least \$1,000 on projects but feels networking, not her reel will get her a job.

"It's like I am spending all of this money and all of this time to get a passing grade in the class, but where is that going to take me afterwards? I still have to work hard to get a job. So what is the goal? A degree, yes, but what's after that," said Adeniyi.

Adeniyi says she feels the depart-

ment could be doing more for students who don't have the income to put into these projects by perhaps providing things like basic furniture and sets.

Judith Kenny, Director of the Film Department, said that a professional looking reel is crucial, comparing it to a business card. But, she said, that doesn't mean students should feel obligated to spend outside their means.

"The department does not encourage spending for spending's sake. In fact, the department encourages students to think creatively and use the tools that are available to them to make the best films they can within their means," said Kenny. "That being said, it is inevitable that a film student will incur costs associated with production. This is made clear to all students who are considering a BA in film production. The department is committed to working with each student on an individual basis to ensure that they have the resources required for success in the program. We are also committed to supporting students in crafting stories that they within their means to produce."

No matter what price tag, each student puts passion and dedication into the projects that they hope will launch their careers.

"When you have those passionate people who did care about it because, you know, this is our livelihood, this is what is going to make us money in the future," said Ruggiero. "I feel like you have to take it seriously."

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The Future of the Roosevelt Tennis Courts

By Israel S-Rodriguez
Sports Editor

When we look at the Brooklyn College sporting facilities we can't help but notice the modernized field conditions these teams play in. Whether it be the West Quad Center where the Bulldogs host their basketball games, their swimming & diving contests or the volleyball match-ups. The college's soccer field where the softball and soccer teams host conference and non-conference visitors. And then there are the Roosevelt tennis courts, the oldest of all the courts on campus, used by Brooklyn College students during recreation hours and where the Bulldogs' tennis teams fight for playoff contention.

Bumps and cracks are highly noticeable on the tennis courts, during recreation hours, two students can be seen playing a pick-up game, as one student hits the ball to the other, the ball hits one of the many cracks on the court causing the ball to bounce to the end of the field resulting in a dead play. According to Jason Carey, Assistant Vice President of Communications and Marketing, the on-going capital request has been sent to CUNY to address the remodeling project to the State in Albany to receive funding for reconstruction on the courts. Although the college has not yet heard a response on its \$5 million capital request.

Brooklyn College faculty members try their best to keep the courts useable. "We have not had a record of a major complaint since Sept. 2016, which what we do in terms of

addressing complaints is we go in and patch things up," said Carey. In fact the only complaint addressed to faculty workers was a hole on the court that was patched up and fixed by maintenance workers.

Athletics Director Alex Lang, who occasionally attends games, said that all six courts are used throughout the season for singles and doubles matches, in fact he never noticed a match being decided because of the conditions of the courts. The games are self-officiated where players call their own lines, so if a ball were to hit a crack and affect the play, the players would restart the point.

Lang indicated that Brooklyn College is one of the few CUNY campuses who have a tennis court. "A lot of schools that we compete against in CUNY such as Hunter, Brauch, City College and John Jay have tennis teams, but they don't have tennis courts on their campus," said Lang. According to Lang, CUNY teams with no tennis courts on their campuses have to go to an outside park or rent a court just to practice or host matches. "Although our courts are not up to date it's nice to have tennis courts on our campus, so that the people on our team can go straight from class and go to practice," he said.

"It's a great plus but it's something at some point they are definitely have to be updated. I would say the negative thing in terms of the fact that they are one of our older facilities and it's something that's worn over time. I think it's outweighed by the fact that you have this great positive that we still have these tennis courts," said Lang.



Cracks at the top of the field and on the top left corner of the first court near Roosevelt Hall. / Israel S-Rodriguez



A bump large bump on the top left corner as well as a filled in hole in the center of the court. / Israel S-Rodriguez

CUNY Women's Tennis Standings

SCHOOL	CUNYAC	OVERALL
Baruch	6-0	11-6
Lehman	5-1	14-2
Staten Island	4-2	7-8
John Jay	3-3	5-6
Brooklyn	2-4	4-11
Hunter	1-5	2-9
York	0-6	0-11

CUNY Men's Tennis Standings

SCHOOL	CUNYAC	OVERALL
Baruch	6-0	12-3
Hunter	5-1	8-7
Staten Island	4-2	10-6
Lehman	3-3	8-7
Brooklyn	2-4	4-9
John Jay	1-5	2-11
York	0-6	0-13