

THE ORATOR

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT NEWSPAPER

Empowering the voice of the urban student.

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FREE

Celebrating the Legacy of Georgia Brooks: LGBT Advocate

BY CLARA OROZCO
NEWS EDITOR

On April 14, 2015, Hudson County Community College had a special breakfast commemorating the legacy of one of HCCC's own, the late Georgia Brooks. Ms. Brooks was an active member of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community (LGBT). However, her most profound work was the way she touched students' lives, some who had nowhere else to turn. Former Governor James "Jim" McGreevey spoke about his trials after coming out in the LGBT community. HCCC's president, Dr. Glen Gabert, who is also a member of the LGBT community, also spoke. He was personally connected to Ms. Brooks as both a friend and an inspiration in leadership. After the breakfast, this reporter was able to interview both Gov. McGreevey and President Gabert:

Clara Orozco: What advances would you like to see in LGBT rights in the coming years?

Jim McGreevey: Well, the Supreme Court decision on marriage will be important to legally enshrine and underscore the legality of marriage. America, thankfully, is moving in the right direction. We've had many substantial strides, and I'm actually grateful for the changes. As a nation, we have a long tradition of support for civil rights. While there has always been a painful struggle for equality, ultimately the principles of America are based on equality. Eventually we will get there.

CO: Has the political climate gotten better since coming out?

JM: Much better. A memorial for Georgia Brooks would've never happened 25 years ago. That is just one way in which the climate has changed dramatically. The change applies not only to popular culture, TV, arts, theater; even in the political class, people are embracing the LGBT community as just one more facet of diversity.

CO: Have you influenced LGBT youth?

See Brooks || Continued on Pg. 3



Pictured with Gov. James McGreevey from right are Hudson County Community College President Dr. Glen Gabert; Dr. Paula P. Pando, Vice President for the North Hudson Higher Education Center and Student Affairs; Gregory Ratcliff, partner of Dr. Gabert; Dr. Eric Friedman, Vice President for Academic Affairs; and Roger Jones, President, CEO and owner of Jones & Associates Communications. Courtesy of HCCC Communications

The Orator Takes Home Awards



Katherine O'Neill, Tara Warner, and Clara Orozco holding awards

BY KATHERINE O'NEILL
FEATURES EDITOR

The Hudson County Community College newspaper, the Orator, attended the New Jersey Press Association awards. The student newspaper took home three awards in the statewide contest.

◆ First place in the Two-Year College Division for Feature Writing: "Thanks Through Giving" by Tara Werner, former editor-in-chief.

◆ Third Place in Layout and Design

◆ Third Place for General Excellence

The conference welcome was given by the director of the New Jersey Press Foundation, John O'Brien. O'Brien introduced the program speaker, Nat Clymer. Clymer is a professional newspaper photographer who spoke about "Photography and Journalism." He gave us the acronyms KISS: Keep It Simple Stupid. He explained that if you want to photograph something or even tell a story, keep it simple, which is a good rule in life as well as work.

Clymer gave those attending an exercise to do. First, we were told to close our eyes, and he was going to say a couple of words, such as, "blue sky" "spring day" and "golden retriever, wagging tail." He then had us open our eyes, and asked us if we saw the actual

words that he said. Everyone said no. He went on to say, "Pictures are how we see something." Clymer asked us all what we pictured when he said "Homeless Person." The majority of the people there gave the same description of "old man, beard." Then he mentioned that this image is wrong. He stated that women and children make up over 60% of the homeless population in shelters. He made us think of how just about everyone could have the same image. It's easier to see an old dirty, scruffy guy, who is near the end of his life, than it is a homeless mother and child.

Nat Clymer welcomed questions:

The Orator: Do you still use Film?

NC: No, I haven't used film in over 15 years.

The Orator: You don't miss it?

NC: I still have a dark room and chemicals but, no.

After lunch, the awards were given out. With her signature stride, Werner walked up to accept her award, First Place for Feature Writing in the Two Year Division. This writer accepted the Third Place for Layout and Design as well as the Third Place for General Excellence. The Orator would also like to thank John O'Brien and the New Jersey Press Foundation for hosting the event.

Police Brutality: Will There Ever be Lasting Peace?

BY RUBEN CANDELARIA
JR.
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On April 27, 2015, in Baltimore, Maryland, the world witnessed anarchy take place. Due to the death of Freddie Gray, individuals protested all over the city of Baltimore. With that said, I want to first start off by saying that violence only begets more violence. What's the point of destroying the city you live in, and taking away jobs and businesses from other individuals in your community? As I watched the riots take place on FoxNews and CNN, I thought to myself, "What if this happened in my community?" Furthermore, since I live in the northern New Jersey area, what if this took place in Jersey City or Newark? This generation coming up needs to figure out a way to protest in a non-violent way if we want to see change because if not, then we will continue to see our country burn to ashes.

On the other hand, I will play devil's advocate. As much as I disagree with these violent protests, we can't really blame the city of Baltimore and the black community. Mike Brown, Eric Garner, Walter Scott, and Freddie Gray are just a few individuals who have been allegedly murdered by police. Obviously, these are not the only killings that have taken place within the last calendar year, but these are the deaths that are most known to the public eye. With all of this said, I believe, to a certain extent the black community has had enough of this.

As this took place, I thought of a scene in the movie "Tupac Resurrection." The scene titled "What do you think we're gonna do? Ask?" In this scene, Tupac compares singing to obtain food in a hotel room to what was going on in society during that time. As the scene continues,

Tupac breaks down how the tone of voice and style of singing dictated the rage built inside to eat and how fed up the black community is of being mistreated. Well, it's the same issue we have here except, now I think we're at the "Picking the lock, open up the door blasting" part where people are just fed up that there is no justice for these alleged murders taking place.

I think one of the main issues here is police training because that's where officers are trained. I can't sit here and tell you what is being taught in the police academy. However, from the looks of it, it seems like either nothing is being taught or police officers are just being lazy. If an individual is running why can't the officer chase them down? If an officer is being attacked why can't they wrestle the person down without seriously hurting them? If they feel their life is threatened why not use what they teach you in the academy to take the person down? It's a shame that the same people we're supposed to rely on when trouble occurs are the same people that we may have to be worried about to take our lives.

In closing, this has to stop because for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. If city officials do not want any more riots take place, then bring justice to the officers who have done wrong. Furthermore, the media needs to stop being biased towards one culture. For example, no negative attention and derogatory comments were directed toward the people of San Francisco in 2012 after the Giants won the World Series. How about the people of Vancouver in 2011 when their Hockey team lost? Were they a victim of media bias and derogatory comments? In the words of the late Owen Hart, "Enough is enough and it's time for a change."

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NEWS FROM OUR OFFICE

BY KATHERINE O'NEILL
FEATURES EDITOR

When I was little, bedtime was one of my most treasured times. My mom would read to me, and I could always coax her into reading another book or two. This may be why I continue to read. I love the feel of the pages and the covers of the books. That spark got this reporter wondering what my fellow Orator reporters' and advisors' favorite books were.

What was your favorite childhood book?

- Clara Orozco: *The Giving Tree*
- Quincy Rodgers: *The Magic Tree House*
- Ruben Candelaria Jr.: *Green Eggs and Ham*
- Joseph Pascale: *Call of the Wild by Jack London*
- Deborah Kanter: *Nancy Drew Mystery series*
- Mark Fernandez: *The Three Musketeers*

Who/what was your favorite character?

- CO: The Tree.
- QR: Froggy (from the series) and Garfield.
- RC: Batman.
- JP: Buck (the dog).
- DK: Nancy Drew.
- MF: I don't remember.

Do you ever reread the same book?

- CO: I reread *The Giving Tree* to my nieces and nephew.
- QR: No.
- RC: No.
- JP: Yes, I wish I reread more.
- DK: Yes.
- MF: No, different ones.

What type of book do you read now?

- CO: Mostly non-fiction and history books.
- QR: Medical
- RC: Comic Books
- JP: Philosophy Books
- DK: Humanities and medical
- MF: Sports

What form of reading do you read from book/tablet/ e-book?

- CO: Mainly books.
- QR: Just books. I like the old fashioned book.
- JP: Usually paper books, but sometimes I read e-books.
- DK: Everything. If its got words I'll read it.
- MF: Mostly book and tablet.

The Orator would like to know: *What was your favorite book then and now? We would like your input. You can reach us:*

Orator@live.hccc.edu

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CORRECTIONS:

Notice an error? Please submit all corrections to The Orator Editors at Orator@live.hccc.edu




Meet The Orator 2015

Staff

 <p>RUBEN CANDELARIA JR.</p> <p>"Hi, my name is Ruben Candelaria Jr. and I am a English and broadcasting major." <i>Why do I keep coming back?</i></p> <p>"Besides having a passion for sports and pro wrestling, I enjoy writing. I also enjoy talking with people to get leads for my stories and collaborating with my peers. My goal is to help establish this newspaper and bring it to the next level."</p>	 <p>KATHERINE O'NEILL</p> <p>"Hello, my name is Katherine O'Neill and I am a liberal arts major. After graduating HCCC in 2011, I decided to come back to reorient myself before transferring to NJCU"</p> <p><i>What keeps bringing me back to the Orator?</i></p> <p>"I love to share my thoughts. I love to learn and I'm an avid reader. My dream is to one day write a children's book."</p>
 <p>QUINCY RODGERS</p> <p>Hello, my name is Quincy Rodgers and I am a second year student studying occupational therapy." <i>Why do I keep coming back?</i></p> <p>"I became involved with The Orator last year after presenting some illustrations. I instantly became interested in the newspaper. I found it was a great way to expand on my writing potential and do something productive with my illustrations."</p>	 <p>CLARA OROZCO</p> <p>"Hello, my name is Clara Orozco and I am a graphics arts major." <i>Why do I keep coming back?</i></p> <p>"My dream job is to be a writer. I came to The Orator because I love being a part of a publication that gives back to students, both those who read it and those who write it"</p>
 <p>JONNATHAN RIERA</p> <p>"Hi, my name is Jonnathan Riera and I am pursuing a computer science degree." <i>Why do I keep coming back?</i></p> <p>"I joined The Orator to expand my horizons and learn more about newspaper production, while being able to serve my college community. Thank you for reading this paper and expect more stories from me this year."</p>	 <p>MARK FERNANDEZ</p> <p>"Hi , my name is Mark Fernandez and I am a digital and graphic design major." <i>Why do I keep coming back?</i></p> <p>"I joined The Orator last semester and it has become a great experience for me and an opportunity to work with other students. We have improved with every issue. Working as a team we have proved nothing is impossible if we work together."</p>

Writer Wanted



Any HCCC Student Interested in Something?

SERIOUSLY, IF YOU HAVE A STORY YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOUR PEERS, GET IT PUBLISHED IN AN AWARD WINNING NEWSPAPER. WE NEED YOUR HELP! THE ORATOR ALWAYS ACCEPTS SHORT STORIES, INVESTIGATIONS, ARTWORK, PHOTO COLLECTIONS, RESTAURANT REVIEWS AND CAMPUS RANTS.

MEETINGS: TUESDAY 4-6 PM
LOCATION: BUILDING B 211



Brooks || Cont. from Pg. 1

JM: There are people who have had a more significant impact. In my limited way, I have tried to unite by corresponding with members of the community. One story that particularly spoke to me was a young woman who came out in Idaho. She was bullied, abused, had no support from her school or principal. We are still facing a struggle. There are clearly places in America where it isn't easy to be authentic to who one is. Speaking to these students made me admire their integrity, resilience, and courage.

CO: How has the work you have done with prison inmates changed your outlook on life?

JM: Part of it is that we're all wounded. Working with women in the system has allowed me to share their trauma and loss, which is something we have all experienced. I am privileged to work with these women as they've had such a difficult life. It really makes you think about the fact that not everyone has the same start in life. The women I work with show tremendous courage and commitment. Many of them have suffered through domestic and sexual violence, and yet have the courage to maintain their sobriety. It is a privilege as I've grown to both love and be more compassionate for others. Think about it, we all don't start the race in the same place. I was fortunate to grow up with a family who loved and supported me. Many people are not that fortunate.

CO: Has your work impacted your daughters?

JM: Of course. They are extraordinary. I have tried my best to make them good, responsible, caring beings. They have learned that in this earth we all have a responsibility to each other. Ironically, they have seen me become a better me through serving others. I am less engaged with my ego when serv-

ing others. That changes how they see the world.

Dr. Glen Gabert on Georgia Brooks:

Clara Orozco: You personally knew Georgia Brooks. How do you think the school benefitted from her work as a liaison in the SGA?

Dr. Glen Gabert: Georgia would've been 70 years old this year. She was a black woman from Georgia. She came out at a very hostile time for the LGBT community. We need to honor her by thinking about Georgia's walk. At the time I knew Georgia, she was very open about who she was. She was phenomenal. She inspired so many people. We have a lot of students that face issues of being accepted in their communities, religious denominations, cultures, etc. Georgia understood them. She was a hero.

CO: Did Georgia Brooks have an impact on your life?

GG: Totally. She once told me, "You are not engaged enough!" Due to Georgia's influence, I worked hard to expand our library's LGBT collection and further educated staff on our students' orientations and their sensibilities. The SGA also evolved to provide a safe space for our students to be comfortable being themselves without fear of being outed.

Georgia Brooks changed my life. I have always been out; however, she helped me feel comfortable in the changing environment of our community and struggle.

Coping with Public Speaking Anxiety in College

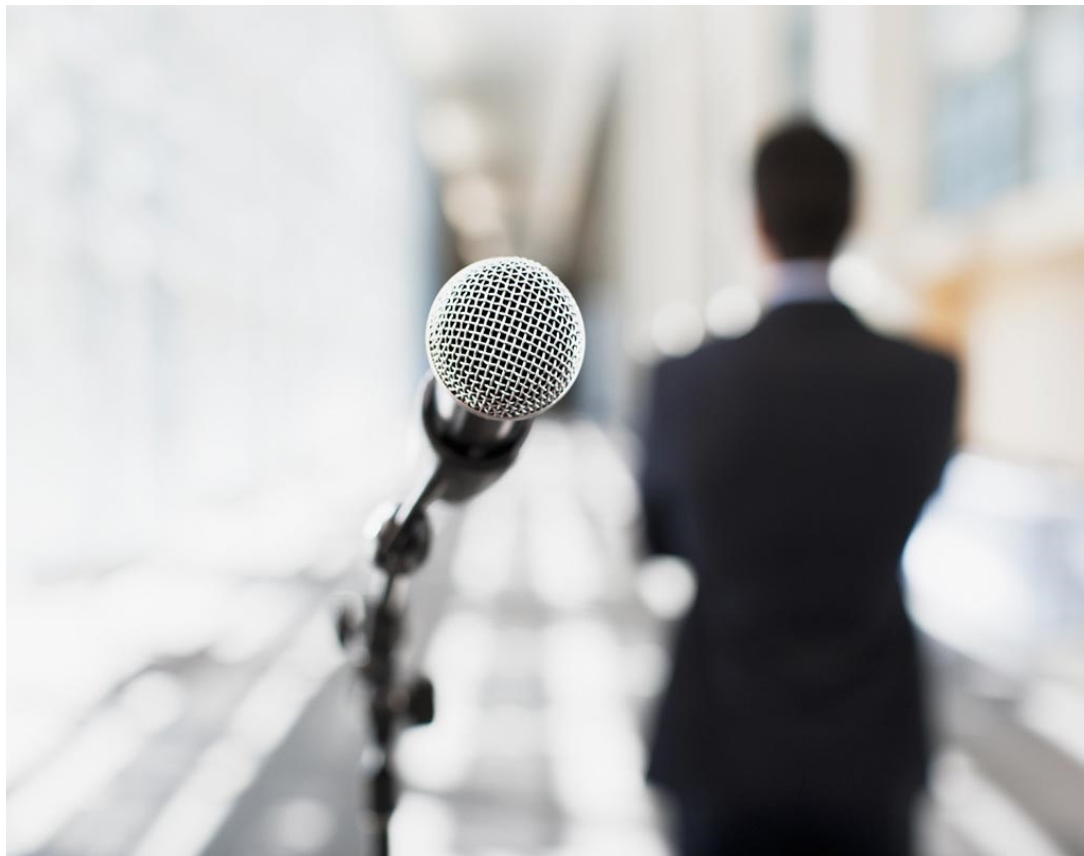


Image courtesy Josh Peace

BY JUSTIN EPPS
STAFF WRITER

Many students attending Hudson County Community College might have difficulty speaking in public. Students have different methods of hiding their fear. However, many of the students have little experience with giving a speech. That is why when you are behind the podium, you may tend to stutter and may feel uncomfortable. You may be thinking, "I want to make a good impression." Then you may begin to wonder, "How will I get these people to understand me?" "How will I convey to these people that this subject is important?"

I recently visited the Gaming Central Club's event at the B Building to find out how other students find ways to deal with their fears before a speech. One club member said, "If you feel nervous about giving a speech or performing something around people, I would look for that person I know very well in the crowd because that person can give me the confidence of what I need to do."

When asked, "What was your biggest fear about public speaking?" answers ranged from being interrupted by other people, losing focus of what the subject is, and losing eye contact with the audience to being judged.

The Club members also added some tips to help with public speaking, such as, "You should improve on your speech, recite your topic to yourself or to a friend, write out rough drafts, make flash cards, and do research on what the subject is." This will allow students to take the time and effort to improve their public speaking skills and to rid their fears for future performances along with building confidence in themselves.

Letters to The Editor

Dear Orator,

On April 5, 2015, HCCC held an event at the Meadowlands Racetrack to benefit HCCC's student scholarships. I am appalled as a member of the student body to know that our school participates in such a cruel activity in the name of benefiting students. As part of an institution, we are supposed to learn morals and compassion. Participating in an event that abuses animals by using them as entertainment and then ends their exploitation by shooting them or sending them to slaughter is repulsive.

Sincerely,
A Concerned Student

Classes Are Filling Up Quickly!



Image courtesy efas2015.eu

Register for Your 2015 Fall Classes

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The Hunting Ground Review



Image courtesy Radius

BY CLARA OROZCO
NEWS EDITOR

On January 23, 2015, Pandora's Box burst open at the Sundance Film Festival. A documentary hauntingly titled "The Hunting Ground" was premiered. "The Hunting Ground" is a fast-moving, blood-boiling documentary about sexual assault on college campuses everywhere. The documentary follows students who are victims of rape and sexual assault.

The victims often cite that their stories have been "swept under the rug" in a diligent need to keep institutions' reputations intact. The film, along with recent headlines, have sparked endless (often tumultuous) arguments over the simple question: Are schools protecting students who are victims of sexual abuse? In recent headlines, two Vanderbilt students were expelled and are facing possible jail time, and an additional two other students will be facing trial. The students are Brandon Vandenberg, Cory Batey, Brandon Banks and Jaborian McKenzie. The men, all part of Vanderbilt's football team, took an unconscious female, also a student at Vanderbilt, into a dorm room where they raped, sodomized, and assaulted her. This case has brought the spotlight on sexual assault on campus along with many in the film.

The film reports that students often went to their school administration only to be judged for "going to a party," "wearing a short skirt," "hanging out alone," etc. Many were dismissed after long afternoons spent retelling

their stories to campus authorities. Many were told to not go to civil authorities.

This poses a major conundrum. After watching the documentary, this reporter did some research and found some interesting information that both contests and reaffirms parts of the film. For example, many of the women in the film say that they are victims of sexual abuse after having fought and had intercourse with a significant other or friend. Sexual abuse and harassment are defined as forceful and unwanted sexual advances made upon a non-consenting person. Rape is to force another person to have intercourse. This generally involves but is not limited to vaginal, anal, and oral contact.

The film notes that most individuals that participate in campus rape are often repeat offenders. These individuals assume a predatory position as they stalk their prey. The film, however, leads to a negative connotation that men are not sexually abused, which is a huge flaw as there are men who have been victims of sexual abuse and rape.

If you ever think you have been a victim of rape or sexual abuse, you can be provided a rape kit at your nearest precinct within 72 hours of penetration. However, evidence fades with time, but emotional rape lasts forever. Do not be afraid to speak up to the authorities and campus officials simultaneously so that action can be taken immediately. Also, remember to not be a victim--failing to report sexual abuse and rape almost guarantees another victim who succumbs to the horrible reality and demoralizing crime that is rape.

The Fight of the Decade



Image courtesy The Tasty Island

BY MARK FERNANDEZ
Staff Illustrator and Writer

People around the globe watched the mega fight between Manny "Pac man" Pacquiao and his rival Floyd "Money" Mayweather. This fight was for the Welterweight Championship of the World and also, finally, to decide who is the best boxer in this era. For the last 5 years, this fight has been built as the fight of the century. Regardless of the issue that prevented this fight to take place, on May 2, 2015, we witnessed history. Many A-list celebrities attended the fight, including Ben Affleck and Denzel Washington. Both fighters mean so much to the sport of boxing. They are classified as future hall of famers in boxing and will be the first ballot at the hall of fame. There were high expectations going into this fight. Fans expected an entertaining slugfest between the two greats.

Before the start of the fight, excitement was in the air. Both fighters approached the ring with their respective entourages: celebrities like Justin Bieber, Jimmy Kimmel, and even the Burger King mascot. Once the fight began, the crowd yelled and cheered for their favorite fighters. Mayweather's style is more defensive and relies on counter punching, which has always been the key to his success. On another hand, Pacquiao is more of a fighter who depends on a combination of punches, speed, and aggressiveness.

In the middle of the fight, Floyd Mayweather became very conservative, which led to Pacquiao cornering Mayweather and throwing countless punches in the fourth round.

This caused frustration for Mayweather and cost him the round, losing 10 to 9. Pacquiao had 19% accuracy landing his punches, while Mayweather was 81 percent accurate. Each round scored very close with a 10 to 9 score.

In the end, the winner by unanimous decision was Floyd Mayweather. After the fight, Max Kellerman of HBO Sports spoke with Pacquiao. "It's a good fight. I thought I won the fight. He didn't do nothing," said Pacquiao. On the hand, Floyd Mayweather was interviewed by Ed of Showtime Sports. "I'm a calculated fighter. He is a tough competitor," Mayweather said. The fight was a chess match. Mayweather used his jab to keep Pacquiao away for most of the fight.

For this fight, people can say who won the fight and who is the best in the sport of boxing. The most important thing was that both fighters gave their best to entertain the fans. Both Pacquiao and Mayweather changed the entire sport of boxing. People started to watch every fight in different weight classes, including welterweight, to which both fighters belong.

Interested in writing about sports, films, or current events?

Contact:

Orator@live.hccc.edu

RUFF DOGS: INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR

BY QUINCY RODGERS

