

CSIL Newsletter

Written by: Aneesa Thomas
November 1st, 2024



CLUB EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

”

Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend.

-Melody Beattie

Here's what has happened in the last month and what's to come!



CSIL Coordinator Club Meeting



Fashion Club's First General Meeting



ALPFA Alumni Panel/Testimonials



Theatrical Players General Meeting

In this newsletter you can expect:

Think Pink: We Rise Against Breast Cancer!

Land, Spirit Story: Embracing Native American Heritage

Thanks and Giving Embracing the Season of Kindness

Salute to Service: Celebrating Our Veterans

The Power of Listening: Tune In and Connect

What's Happening at the Club: Your Monthly Update!

WHAT DID I MISS?

RECAP OF CLUB EVENTS

We know you've been hitting the books hard with homework, essays, and papers—but it's time to hit pause! Take a well-deserved break and recharge by joining us for some of the exciting events happening around campus, hosted by CSIL (Center for Student Involvement and Leadership). Whether you're looking to unwind, get creative, or meet new people, there's something for everyone. Your free time deserves to be just as memorable as your study sessions!



BSU: WELCOME B(L)ACK SOCIAL



INK CLUB: GENERAL MEETING



SASA: GENERAL MEETING

To see more of what these clubs have planned be sure to check out their Instagram handles:

[@lavoz.jjay](#)
[@bsu.jjay](#)
[@johnjay.ink](#)
[@johnjaysasa](#)
[@legallyconsciousjjay](#)
[@johnjay_debate_society](#)
[@asajjay](#)



LEGALLY CONCIIOUS: GENERAL MEETING



LA VOZ: GENERAL MEETING



DEBATE: GENERAL MEETING
























ASA: JOLLOF WARS

INDULGE IN SCHOOL SPIRIT WITH CLUB EVENTS

CSIL proudly manages over 58 clubs, offering a diverse range of events that encompass cultural, academic, social, and advocacy initiatives. These clubs provide students with valuable opportunities to connect, learn, and engage with their peers, fostering a vibrant and inclusive campus community. Join us as we celebrate the unique interests and backgrounds of our students through exciting activities and events that inspire collaboration and personal growth!



04	Hillel - General Meeting	
04	International Criminal Justice - Game Day	
05	ALPFA - SEO Career Event	
06	Muslim Student Association - Bi- Weekly Meeting	
06	ALPFA - Manhattan DA Panel	
07	InterVarsity Christian Fellowship - Large Group Meeting	
11	Hillel - General Meeting	
12	Muslim Student Association - Gender Interaction Workshop	
14	ALPFA - ALPFA Connect: Alumni Panel/ALPFA Testimonial	
15	South Asian Student Association - Bhangra Night	
18	Forensic Science Society - Forensic Files Watch Along	
18	Hillel - General Meeting	
19	International Student Association - Thanksgiving Lunch	
19	Muslim Student Association - Friendships in Islam	
20	Criminology Club - Sexual Violence and Consent	
20	ALPFA - ALPFA: Any Info	
21	ALPFA - Potluck	
21	West Indies Massive - PotLuck	
26	Criminology Club - Lecture Event	
26	InterVarsity Christian Fellowship - Tabling	
26	Hillel - General Meeting	

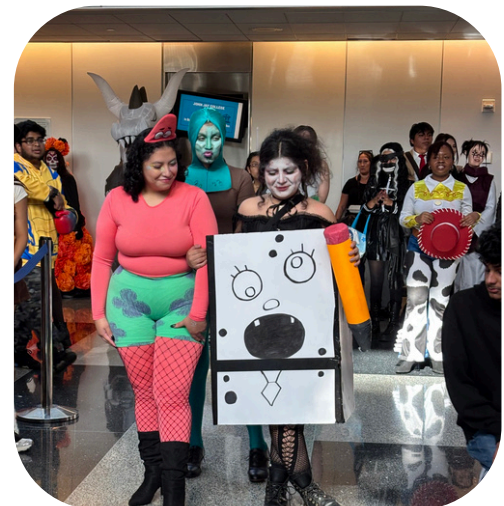


Spooktacular Style: The Halloween Fashion Show

On **October 31st**, during Community Hour, CSIL (Center for Student Involvement and Leadership) and CAB (Campus Activities Board) hosted their highly anticipated Halloween Fashion Show—a thrilling event that showcased some of the most spectacular and imaginative costumes ever seen on campus. With over **100** participants, students from across the John Jay community brought their A-game, transforming into everything from iconic cultural figures—such as those from the vibrant Día de los Muertos celebration—to beloved cartoon characters like Adventure Time, and so much more.

The event was a true celebration of creativity, with costumes that reflected both personal expression and the diversity of the John Jay community. From spooky to whimsical, traditional to contemporary, the costumes covered a wide range of themes, all adding to the unique atmosphere of the show. The energy in the room was infectious as participants strutted their stuff down the runway, receiving cheers and applause from the enthusiastic crowd. This year's show not only gave students a chance to showcase their creativity but also brought the community together for a fun filled, spirited celebration of Halloween. A huge thank you to everyone who participated, attended, and helped make this event such a memorable success!

The Winners!



THINK PINK: RISE AGAINST BREAST CANCER!

Join the Fight: Your Support Saves Lives
and Promotes Early Detection!



Empowering Advocacy: The Importance of Supporting Breast Cancer Awareness at John Jay

During the month of October, breast cancer awareness is not just a cause; it's a movement that holds the power to save lives and strengthen communities. Supporting breast cancer awareness, particularly among the students at John Jay, is vital for several reasons.

These students are at the forefront of advocacy, working tirelessly to educate their peers and the broader community about the importance of early detection, self-examinations, and regular screenings. They engage in meaningful discussions that not only raise awareness but also combat the stigma surrounding breast cancer, empowering individuals to seek help and support without hesitation.

Moreover, supporting breast cancer awareness aligns with the values of empathy, solidarity, and resilience. It is an opportunity for us all to stand together, honor those affected by breast cancer, and show our commitment to fighting this disease. When we support our students in their advocacy efforts, we are not just participating in a campaign; we are contributing to a larger movement that seeks to create a future where breast cancer awareness and prevention are prioritized.



1 IN 8 WOMEN

in the United States will develop breast cancer in her lifetime



Did You Know?

Get Tested Early!

While breast cancer is often thought of as a women's disease, about

1 IN 833 MEN

men will also be diagnosed with breast cancer. Breast cancer has no limits.

Early testing for breast cancer is crucial because it significantly increases survival rates, with the **five-year survival rate exceeding 90% when detected early**. Catching the disease at a smaller, less aggressive stage allows for less invasive treatment options, leading to fewer side effects and a better quality of life. Additionally, early detection promotes awareness about breast health, encouraging individuals to recognize changes in their bodies and seek timely medical advice. Ultimately, **early testing not only benefits individuals but also helps reduce the overall burden of breast cancer on communities and healthcare systems.**

LAND, SPIRIT, STORY EMBRACING NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE!

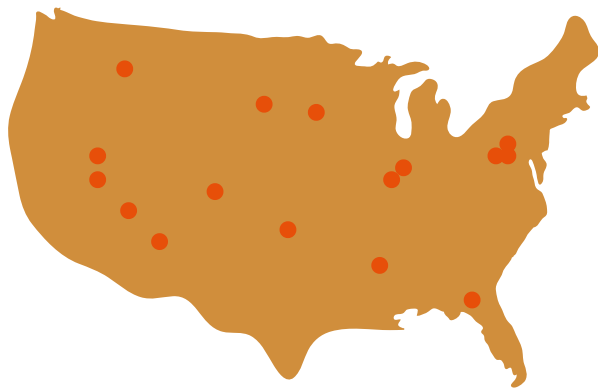
Support Native American heritage: honor the past, celebrate the present, and empower future generations.



The Importance of Listening: Embracing Native American Stories and Their Impact on Society

Students should listen to the stories of Native Americans because these narratives offer profound insights into the rich cultural heritage, traditions, and histories that have significantly shaped American society. Native American stories are not only a window into the past but also highlight the resilience and adaptability of Indigenous communities in the face of adversity. Understanding these contributions fosters empathy and appreciation for the diverse experiences that have influenced the nation's development.

Moreover, engaging with Native American perspectives helps students recognize the ongoing challenges faced by Indigenous peoples, including issues related to sovereignty, environmental stewardship, and cultural preservation. By learning about these experiences, students can cultivate a deeper understanding of social justice and advocacy, empowering them to contribute to a more equitable society.



SHAPING THE LAND

There are

574

federally recognized Native American tribes in the United States. Additionally, there are many state-recognized tribes and unrecognized tribes, which can bring the total number of tribes to over 1,000.



One way non- Native individuals can support Native American culture is by opening yourself up to educational resources and to have discussions about the culture on different facets and intersectionality that exist

-Cameron Smith



Did You Know?

Many principles of Native governance, including the idea of **participatory democracy and consensus-building**, have informed the development of democratic practices in the U.S.

THANKS AND GIVING EMBRACING THE SEASON OF KINDNESS!

Embracing kindness through small gestures of appreciation, generosity, and community support not only enhances our celebrations but also fosters connection and compassion, reminding us of the true spirit of the holiday.



The Importance of Being Kind During Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on gratitude and togetherness, making it an ideal opportunity to emphasize the importance of kindness. As families and friends gather around the table, acts of kindness can enhance the spirit of the holiday, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere. During Thanksgiving, kindness can manifest in various ways—sharing a meal with those in need, expressing appreciation for loved ones, or simply offering a listening ear.

These small gestures can have a profound impact, fostering connections and reinforcing the bonds that bring us together. Moreover, practicing kindness during Thanksgiving promotes a sense of community. Engaging in charitable acts, such as volunteering at a local shelter or donating food, allows us to give back and support those who may be struggling. This spirit of generosity aligns perfectly with the values of gratitude and compassion that Thanksgiving embodies.



Did You Know?

In New York City, around

200,000

students face food insecurity, while more than

60,000

individuals experience homelessness on any given night.



World Kindness Day! and National Hunger and Homelessness!

On **November 12th**, as we celebrate **World Kindness Day**, it's essential to remember the power of kindness, especially towards those who face food insecurity. Many students struggle with where their next meal will come from, and it's vital that we foster a compassionate environment where everyone feels supported and understood.

Canned Food Drive Coming Soon ...



To embody this spirit of kindness, the Center for Student Involvement and Leadership (CSIL) is organizing a food drive from **November 11th to 18th, coinciding with National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week**. We invite you to participate by donating non-perishable food items, such as canned goods, to the CSIL Office during this time.

Together, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of our peers and show that kindness truly matters. Thank you for your generosity, and let's work together to create a caring community. Have a wonderful day!

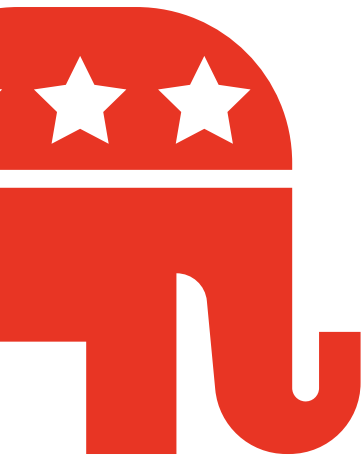


The Power in Voting: Empowering Students to Shape the Future

Voting in the upcoming election is an essential opportunity for students to make their voices heard and influence the issues that directly affect their lives and futures. As young adults, you bring unique perspectives on critical matters such as education, climate change, healthcare, and social justice. By participating in the electoral process, you can advocate for policies and candidates that reflect your values and priorities. Every vote truly counts; history has shown that elections can be decided by a remarkably small number of votes, making your participation even more significant.

Engaging in this civic duty empowers you to shape the future while setting an example for your peers and younger generations. It's not just about casting a ballot; it's about standing up for the issues you care about and ensuring that your needs are represented. Your vote is your voice, and it has the power to create meaningful change in your community and beyond. Don't miss this chance to take part in the democratic process—your engagement is crucial for a brighter and more equitable future!

The Divison !



The Center for Student Involvement and Leadership Presents

Election Exhaust: A Safe Space for Healing & Dialogue

In light of the election results, many of us may be feeling a range of emotions – from anxiety to frustration, or even a sense of disheartenment. We understand that this can be a difficult time for many students. That's why CSIL is offering a safe space to share your thoughts and emotions.

FEELING ELECTION BLUES?

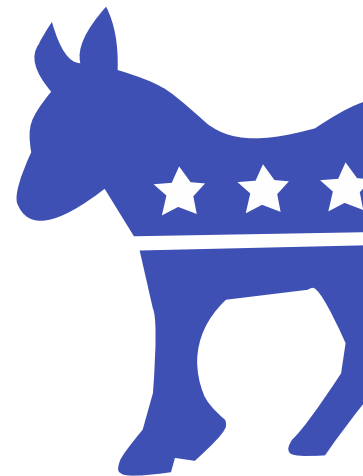
Highlights:

- **Emotional Support:** A safe space to share your thoughts and feelings.
- **Confidential Guidance:** Listen and offer non-judgmental support.
- **Resources:** Connect with helpful campus and community mental health resources.
- **Group Discussions:** Facilitated conversations to promote empathy and understanding.

Date: November 6th and 13th
Time: 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm
Location: L2.69 (Student Council Conference Room)

For more information email: csil@jay.cuny.edu

JOHN JAY
COLLEGE OF
CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
CENTER FOR STUDENT INVOLVEMENT & LEADERSHIP





Your Vote, Your Voice: Empowering Students to Shape the Future

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Spotlight: Richard Pusateri

Director of Military and Veteran Services

As the Director of Military and Veteran Services at John Jay College, Richard Pusateri plays a vital role in supporting our **600 military-related students**. Joining John Jay in spring 2016, Richard built on his extensive experience as a Navy chaplain for 30 years. His role has expanded significantly as the college recognized its importance as a hub for military students, overseeing a diverse range of initiatives, including **ROTC programs, recruitment efforts, and collaborations with military organizations**.

With a dedicated team, including Assistant Director Chrissy Pacheco and Veteran Advisor Alexis Pistone, Richard ensures comprehensive support for our veterans. This includes addressing their unique needs in areas such as academic advising, resource navigation, mental health support, and career development.

Richard emphasizes a personal approach to support, drawing from his Marine Corps experience with the mindset of asking, **"What can I do to help?"** This philosophy fosters a welcoming environment where students feel valued and heard. Even amidst staffing challenges, he prioritizes student welfare, often choosing to address immediate needs over administrative duties.

His main goals for students are twofold: **to affirm their right to a quality education and to actively engage in discussions about their goals and challenges**. Richard understands that many students face impediments beyond academics, such as personal or family issues, and he aims to help them navigate these challenges to achieve success.

As Veterans Day approaches, Richard highlights the importance of understanding the perspectives of veteran students. He **encourages non-veteran students to recognize the sacrifices made by their peers and to foster an environment of support and respect**. This awareness can help bridge gaps and create a more inclusive community at John Jay.

Richard's dedication to fostering a supportive and understanding environment for military and veteran students is truly inspiring. His leadership continues to make a significant impact on the lives of many, helping them thrive both academically and personally.

A hero has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself.

-Joseph Campbell



THE POWER OF LISTENING TUNE IN AND CONNECT

Listening is a vital skill that fosters understanding and connection in our interactions. It allows us to fully engage with others, showing that we value their thoughts and feelings. Effective listening not only enhances communication but also builds trust, reduces misunderstandings, and promotes collaboration.



The Power of Listening: Building Connections in Education and Beyond

Listening to students is vital because it empowers them to share their thoughts and concerns, fostering a sense of belonging and ownership in their educational journey. When students feel heard, they are more likely to engage actively in their learning and develop confidence in expressing their ideas. This practice not only enhances the educational experience but also helps educators and administrators identify and address the unique needs of their students, leading to a more inclusive and supportive environment where everyone can thrive.

Moreover, listening to each other—whether it be family, friends, or peers—strengthens our relationships and builds a deeper sense of community. Open communication fosters understanding and empathy, allowing us to appreciate different perspectives and experiences. When we actively listen to those around us, we create a culture of support and trust, which is essential for personal growth and connection. By valuing the voices of others, we not only enrich our own lives but also contribute to a more harmonious and collaborative environment, both in our schools and in our everyday lives.



Did You Know?

Approximately **50%** of students report feeling unheard or undervalued in school settings. A survey conducted by the National Student Leadership Conference found that many students express a desire for their opinions and ideas to be acknowledged and considered by educators and peers.



International Voices Matter!

I recently had the opportunity to interview Archita Nair, President of the International Student Association, and Halin Kang, the International Student Representative. They shared the challenges and frustrations that international students face when coming to the United States—particularly students from countries like Korea and Bangladesh. The immigration process is complex, time-consuming, and often overwhelming, especially for those pursuing higher education at John Jay College. For these students, the journey to the U.S. is filled with hope and ambition, but it also comes with significant barriers. The process of obtaining a student visa is lengthy and requires navigating a maze of regulations. Once they arrive, they are immediately placed under pressure, often having to make critical life decisions with little guidance. Limited work-study options and strict employment rules only add to their challenges, as their jobs must be within the CUNY system. Housing costs are another major hurdle, with limited affordable options. Additionally, students often rely on a single advisor to navigate this complex system, and the lack of widespread knowledge across other departments, professors, and staff about the unique needs of international students can make their journey even more difficult. Given these challenges, it's clear that international students require more resources, advisors, and a stronger support system to ensure their success at John Jay. These students should have access to better benefits and a network of support to help them thrive both academically and personally. It's essential that the John Jay community listen to and understand their sentiments, so that we can work together to provide the resources and guidance they need to fully succeed in their studies and their lives here in the U.S.



We Will Listen: Got Questions, We Have the Answers!

For matters regarding budgeting and paperwork process you can:
Email us at csil@jjay.cuny.edu or call at 212-237-8698 Meet with a **CSIL Coach** during **Community Hour**



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