

# Opinion

## Coalition Petitions for Control of Redevelopment Site

by Awilda Pomales-Diaz  
Digital Editor

A previously uninhabitable Superfund site located on Route 440 has been cleaned up and approved for redevelopment. Control of that land is now in the hands of Jersey City.

Erich Sekel, a strategist for Jersey City Together and Associate Director of Campus Ministry at Saint Peter's University, is working to make affordable housing a part of the redevelopment plans.

His goal is to gather 10,000 signatures before February to present to the Honeywell Corporation and Mayor Steven Fulop as evidence that the community deserves a voice.

"What we want is a place where the people of Jersey City can live—a place where people from Jersey City can work," said Sekel. "The people who have been living there should be able to benefit and appreciate improvements."

Jersey City Together is a coalition of different groups consisting of congregations, parishes, and non-denominational groups who have come together to address issues facing the residents of the city. They have been fighting for the community to have not only a voice, but also a vote in the redevelopment process.

Their mission is to mobilize and organize these different groups in the community, listen to their concerns, and address issues with local government. After a year long listening campaign, the three main issues concerning the community are education, crime and housing.

Along with affordable and low income housing, insourcing a percentage of jobs for the redevelopment construction to Jersey City residents is also a goal of Jersey City Together. •



Graphic by Pabel De Jesus

## College Kids Should Keep Up with Local Politics

by Alex Antonucci  
News Editor

On Nov. 7, New Jersey will elect a new governor. Current governor Chris Christie will be unable to run for a third consecutive term, and it's up to the state to elect a new candidate to fill his position.

Due to Christie's unpopularity, only 15 percent of New Jersey voters approve of the Republican governor, according to a 2017 Quinnipiac University study, it is more important than ever for the state to elect someone who will put their needs first.

Given that about 73 percent of Saint Peter's residents are also New Jersey residents, according to the Office of Residence Life, the governor's race will affect the majority of students. However, the university has done little to cover such a monumental event for state politics.

"Honestly, there really is no coverage of the Gubernatorial Race to begin with," said Devin Varela, president of the Young Americans for Liberty. "The talk on campus is at a lull—very unlike last year's presidential election."

Patrick Farrell, president of the College Republicans, agreed that the university needs to remain engaged in politics.

"Our next governor will have a significant impact on the cost of living and the quality of life in this state," said Farrell.

Last year, the political science department sponsored a debate to prepare students for the presidential election.

Representatives from the College Republicans, College Democrats and Young Americans for Liberty came together on the fifth floor of the MacMahon Student Center to discuss what each party's goals were for the presidency. This debate gave students a better idea of what each candidate stood for and how decisions would affect them.

Dr. Anna Brown, chair of the department, says that the political clubs are doing something similar this year.

"The 'Political Corner' event will feature a democratic club and republican club student debate on the New Jersey Gubernatorial Race," she said. "We have yet to set a date but it will be within the next two weeks."

This year, New Jersey has two main candidates for governor. Republican candidate is Kim Guadagno, current Lieutenant Governor for the state. She has high hopes to lower state property taxes and audit Trenton.

She is up against democratic candidate Phil Murphy, former employee of Goldman Sachs, as well as the former National Finance Chair for the Democratic National Committee. He has plans to fight for stricter gun laws, as well as making New Jersey a sanctuary state.

Dr. Brown is passionate about making sure that students stay well-informed on politics.

"The work of civic education and engagement is critical to the well-being of our nation and its people," she said, "Let's do this to make our campus one that is engaged and alive."

Here are the two main candidates and where they stand on important issues:

	Kim Guadagno (Republican)	Phil Murphy (Democrat)
Education	Wants to make higher education more affordable and advance merit pay for teachers	Wants to eliminate standardized testing as a requirement for graduation, and wants to expand free pre-k to all NJ families
Taxes	Plans to veto tax increases and lower the cost of healthcare. Has promised to lower property taxes to make NJ more affordable for residents	Wants to restore property tax rebates, and supports millionaire's tax
Jobs	Wants to promote travel and tourism, as well as give more jobs to military veterans	Wants to make NJ the second state in the country to start a public bank, and wants to raise minimum wage to \$15/hour
Marijuana	Is opposed to legalizing marijuana, but wants to decriminalize it	Supports the legalization of marijuana
Gun Laws	Believes that NJ laws are strict enough	Wants to tighten gun laws
Immigration	Is against sanctuary cities, but hasn't commented on DACA	Plans to make NJ a sanctuary state and supports the Dreamers

# Arts & Entertainment



Saint Peter's students on stage performing Euripides' "Medea" in May 2016.  
Courtesy of Staff

## Alumni Return to Argus Eyes for Fundraising Show

by Franchesca Maniscalco  
Staff Writer

Former Saint Peter's University student actors will return to the stage once again.

The Argus Eyes Drama Society will be hosting an alumni fundraiser performance in memory of former professor Kathryn White and former Argus Eyes president Dan Shea '09. It will be on Saturday, Nov. 4 in Pope Lecture Hall from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m..

The show, entitled "Why Must The Show Go On?," will be a series of four one-act plays written by White including "Dream Street," "Last Rites," "Shadows of the Queen," and "Alien Doctor."

The alumni play is sponsored by both the English Department and the Fine Arts Department along with the Dean's Office for the College of Arts and Sciences. Performers involved in the play include alum Deirdre Van-Deursen, Garvey Potter, and Elizabeth Lodato.

Dr. Rachel Wifall, English professor at the university and co-producer of the event, explained that all ticket sales and donations will go to the Argus Eyes Drama Society's budget.

"The drama society at Saint Peter's has always worked on a shoestring budget and they need assistance in many areas, especially with their sound and lighting needs," said Wifall.

Wifall is not alone for the event as she has help from alum Jonathan Brantley, who is the co-producer of the play series. She credited Brantley for coming up with the idea for the event in honor of White and Shea.

"I thought that Jonathan's idea was a great one as Kathryn was a colleague and friend of mine, and I also have fond memories of Dan," said Wifall.

To purchase tickets, you can go online to Saint Peter's Alumni Online Community and register to purchase. For those who cannot come to the play, you can make a donation through the same page and click "Make a Gift." Make sure to mention Argus Eyes for the donation. •



Two members of Argus Eyes performing "Medea" in May 2016  
Courtesy of Staff

## Cosecha Comes to Campus

*Continued*

According to Brown, Cosecha has embodied everything that the Jesuit community asks of every single one of us.

"[Cosecha members] are creative, courageous, and have taken bold actions—even at great risk to themselves—for the sake of justice, peace, and the dignity of their fellow immigrant brothers and sisters," said Brown.

Dr. Jennifer Ayala is the director of The Center for Undocumented Students (TCUS), which is designed to help students who are not of a legal status. It was started three years ago across the nation in all Jesuit colleges and universities.

"I have deep respect for the movement-making efforts of Cosecha and support their work towards dignity, respect and permanent protection for undocumented populations" said Ayala.

The center provides the students with:

- \* A space for students to gather and talk
- \* Workshops for faculty and staff
- \* Referrals to free or low cost legal support
- \* Internships at TCUS
- \* Resource materials, like scholarship information
- \* Student/community events
- \* Know your rights workshops
- \* Counseling and talking circles

For more information on how to get involved and become a part of the movement, visit [www.lahuelga.com](http://www.lahuelga.com). •



Courtesy of [www.lahuelga.com](http://www.lahuelga.com).