

CAMPUS CONFIDENTIAL

TEXTING

By Brittany Degagne & Sarah Mulvey

Massachusetts Legislature passed a new law, banning texting while driving. Governor Duval Patrick and 28 other state delegates signed it.

“Texting While Driving,” is an act of composing, sending, or reading text messages, email or any other similar use of internet-capable mobile devices while operating any form of vehicular or public transportation” on September 30th, 2010.

This legislation was brought to national public attention after an alarming rise in the rate of accidents including those made by public transportation operators.

In May 2009, a MA Bay Transportation Authority trolley collided with another trolley. It was soon discovered that the conductor was texting with his girlfriend and failed to stop before colliding with the train in front of him. The accident caused injury to 62 individuals on board both trains.

In September 2008, in California, an engineer operating a commuter rail train failed to stop at a red light and slammed into a Union Pacific freight train, killing himself and twenty-five other passengers because he was sending and receiving text messages. Because of these accidents, studies were conducted to show the effects of the distraction caused by texting while driving. The statistics are alarming.



A study conducted by the University of Utah between 2005 and 2008 concluded that cell phone use while driving had the same effect on judgment

and reaction times in drivers that a blood-alcohol level of 0.08 would have. That is the highest legal limit in the state of Massachusetts and is overall, a fairly high level of intoxication.

The new Massachusetts law prevents all drivers from texting while driving while either operating a car or major transportation vehicle.

Operators under the age of 18 are restricted from All cell phone use while driving. If caught

they will receive a \$100 fine and be required to attend a driver attitudinal-retraining course.

Operators over the age of 18 must have one hand visibly on the steering wheel while making a phone call, but

will be fined \$100 for a first texting while driving offense. Fines increase after the first offense. The fines increase to \$250-\$500 plus a possible two-year jail sentence on negligence charges for a driver who causes an accident. Operators of public transportation risk \$500 fines or termination from their jobs for texting while driving offenses.

The law is stringent and has been visibly enforced on our state’s roadways. The ban comes at a time when the increase in accidents and death caused by texting while driving has reached an all-time high.

TEXTING, Page 7

BCC Students Respond

Justin Taylor: “Don’t do anything you wouldn’t do on a road test.”

Alex Pum: “Life will go on if you ignore that text. But people have killed in accidents.

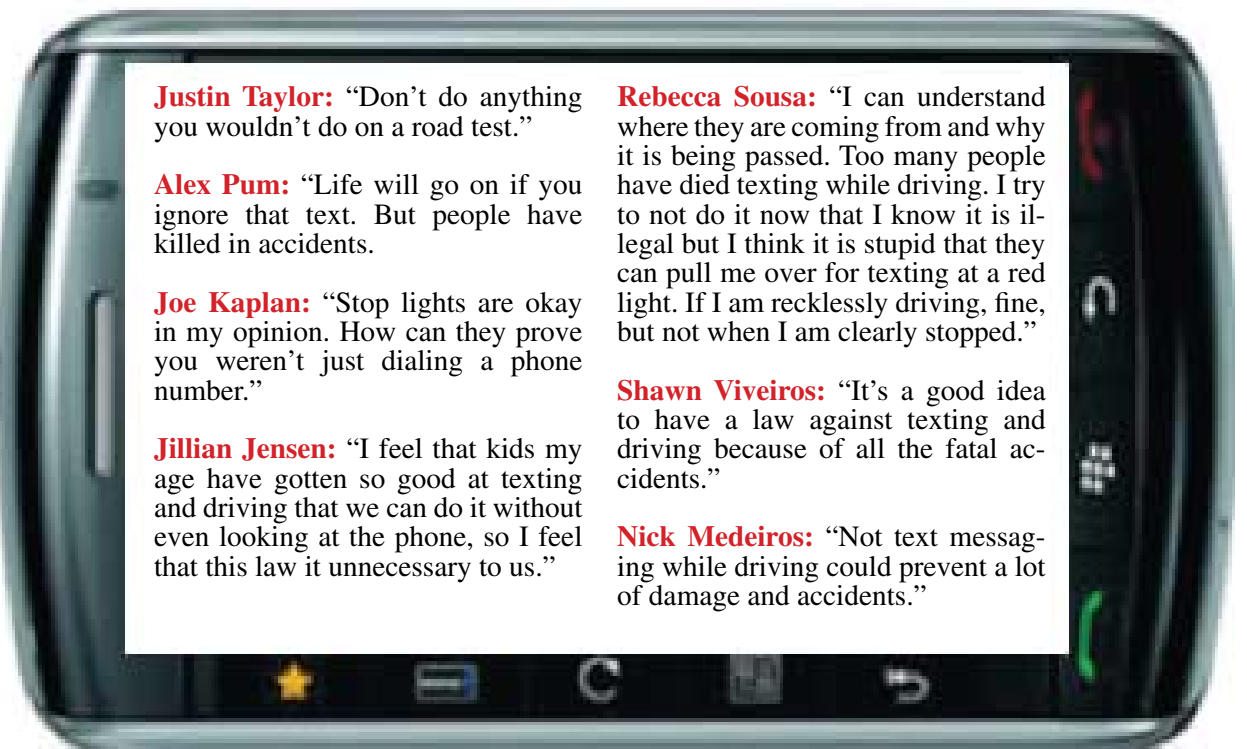
Joe Kaplan: “Stop lights are okay in my opinion. How can they prove you weren’t just dialing a phone number.”

Jillian Jensen: “I feel that kids my age have gotten so good at texting and driving that we can do it without even looking at the phone, so I feel that this law it unnecessary to us.”

Rebecca Sousa: “I can understand where they are coming from and why it is being passed. Too many people have died texting while driving. I try to not do it now that I know it is illegal but I think it is stupid that they can pull me over for texting at a red light. If I am recklessly driving, fine, but not when I am clearly stopped.”

Shawn Viveiros: “It’s a good idea to have a law against texting and driving because of all the fatal accidents.”

Nick Medeiros: “Not text messaging while driving could prevent a lot of damage and accidents.”



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LAW & ORDER BCC

By Chris Wilbur



Pictured center, BCC Director of Public Safety, Wayne Wood, and campus police officers.

“We are not police, we are campus police,” the quote in *Dukes of Hazard* memorably relates. BCC’s Director of Public Safety Wayne Wood chuckled over the line during a recent interview.

But the campus police are police, trained intensely for 16 weeks at the State Police Academy, according to Wood, warmly dubbed “the chief.”

Asked why Bristol Community College’s Campus Police has a reputation of being so friendly, he admitted his officers take after him.

“Our job is to keep the campus safe,” said Wood. “But we are human too.” He mentioned the services the Campus Police offer such as jumpstarts, help with lockouts, both car and class room, and providing a central location

for lost and found in the D building headquarters.

The campus police also offer a program called Rape Aggression Defense or RAD class. Students can dial extension 2218 for more information.

A student’s first run in with the police, however, may just be a request for escort from an evening class.

“Always be aware of your surroundings,” Wood offered as a safety tip, mentioning the Victimization Triangle, a tool taking the opportunity out of an attack, which can be found in this month’s Safety Corner.

Professional, competent—and friendly—BCC ranked #1 last year in the Massachusetts State College rankings for safety.

InStyle at BCC

Now That the Weather is Colder, Fall Fashion Starts to Heat Up

By Katrina Mercier

a tunic, blazer or cardigan. Cardigans are great for layering with tank tops or tee-shirts and can be figure flattering when cinched with a belt around the skinniest part of your waist.

Accessories can add glam to any outfit. Scarves are returning in full force with the newest-infinity scarf. Instead of having two loose ends to the scarf the infinity is a full circle that you can wrap around your neck twice, it’s warm and a great added accessory for coats and sweaters.

Coats are inevitable, this year the pea coat is a classic along with the double breasted coat. For a more edgy look, bombers and leather jackets are great. They are just enough drama without going over the top. Janine Barao said, “My bomber is my favorite fall jacket because its stylish, functional and still keeps me warm.”

A popular new trend is a men’s suit

coat for women. It can look professional for an interview, but also casual with jeans, fun shoes and layered jewelry. If you are not into trying this trend, women’s blazers are everywhere. They come in different colors and textures some even with very feminine ruffles.

Shoes can be so much fun and a great way to add a punch of color to your outfit. Flats look great with skinny jeans. Boots are everywhere! Uggs have been in for a few years now and don’t seem to be going anywhere. They are comfortable and warm in the winter. For fall though, more leather and suede boots, both in heels or flats are in.

Boots have come a long way with studs for extra edge and they seem to go further up the leg past the knee. When it isn’t a beautiful crisp fall day and the rain comes, rain boots are all over campus. Ranging in all different colors and patterns they are helpful in keeping you



Katrina Mercier

Now that the weather is colder, fall fashion starts to heat up. Skinny jeans, leggings and jeggings are definitely standing out around the Fall River BCC campus.

Jeggings are new this season, they fit and feel like leggings but look like jeans. An advantage to the jegging over jeans is how great they fit under boots. Ashley Martins said, “I just bought my first pair of jeggings. They are definitely a girl’s best friend. They flatter my petit frame very well and offer the best comfort and look I could ask for.”

The skinny jean style can be complemented by a looser top such as



Ashley Martins



Janine Barao

dry and fun to wear.

For an all over look, neutrals are in, but add a splash of color or fun pattern to mix it up. Animal prints are great in tasteful doses. Metallics add sparkle to an outfit; belts and handbags look nice in shiny silver or gold. Studs on sweaters and handbags spice up anything you are wearing.

Remember to stay true to your own personal style, but add a few of these new ideas to heat up the chilly weather.

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PHENOM Brings Students to Statehouse

By Chris Wilbur

PHENOM bussed BCC and UMass students to the statehouse in Boston, October 7th in a rally cry to increase state funding for higher education.

The group endorsed a “National Day of Action to Defend Public Education” and was encouraging anyone with a stake in public higher ed, from students to staff, to join.

Student Senate member Andreea Marin said the event “was absolutely amazing and I was glad to see such great dedication to the cause. Many representatives actually took the time out of their busy schedules to come out and support Phenom. It just went to show that students are not alone in this ongoing battle!”

New to the BCC campus this year, PHENOM uses the slogan “Let’s Be Average!” referring to some sour statistics.

Massachusetts ranks fourth from the bottom among the 50 states in state funding of higher ed and average tuition and fees for community colleges are 49% higher than the national average, according to the PHENOM.

The group advocates for lowering tuition, increasing financial aid, and in general issues that impact students such as textbook prices.

Campus advisor Dr. Ron Weisberger said, “We know how important a higher education is in today’s world and it is essential that the Commonwealth fund its public institutions adequately.”

“Phenom was an absolute success and if we keep fighting our voices will surely be heard,” Marin said.

Students are asked to contact Dr. Weisberger to learn more about the group.

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The BCC Engineering Club organized the unique and entertaining Duct Tape Boat Race on October 20, 2010. The race was held on the BCC campus pond behind the Commonwealth College Center (G building). The objective Of the race was to create a sound structure out of cardboard, duct tape and plastic bags that could carry two crew members. Racers had to row thirty yards out into the pond and make it back without capsizing or losing a team member overboard. After three races and much splashing, laughing and victory cheers, the winners were: Team Vigilante for best race time, Team Idea for most unique design and the Tutor Club for best engineering.

by Sarah Mulvey * Photos by Ryan Pease * Page design by Jill Carrico

ATTLEBORO CAMPUS

Lecture Aims at Defining Gangs

By Sean Wilcoxson

We all THINK we know about what gangs are and the type of person that participates in that sort of living.

But Ron Letourneau, an officer who works at the Donald W. Y. Detention Center, has some information for us that could shake up any preconceived ideas about the gang world. It is all around us he tells students attending the lecture on gangs in the auditorium.

"I have learned a lot about the gang world, the most I get is out of the experience of talking with gang members," said Letourneau, "One kid came into the facility yesterday, of seven total in one day who are members of the gang Latin Kings, told me he has been a member of the gang for 12 years. He is 23 years old, so he started living a life of crime and violence at the age of eleven."

The profile of a gang member is constantly changing; we have had people who were incarcerated that were very rich. This guy was a doctor, making tons of money, what was he doing wrong? He was supplying the gang with money.

What is a gang?

The definition is any number of

persons associating together. According to law enforcement, they call this definition too simple. The "real" definition is a group of people engaged in illegal activities. In other words, this is a group of people making money in wrong ways. Some illegal activities of gangs include extortion, violence, drug sales, and weapons.

It seems the popularity of this topic of gangs has grown, the reason for this is because there is such an increase in gang activity that it cannot be ignored, you can find shows on the History Channel and Discovery Channel that show these gangs in action.

No Solution?

In an interview with Letourneau, he came to a point in the questions where the lines blurred: "How do you stop such a thing that is growing so fast at a rate that is almost unstoppable?"

He answered with this: "Well, what can you do? There are programs in the prisons where the gang members cannot go anywhere until they renounce their gang affiliation vows. It is blood in, blood out. So the programs try to help them find a way out if they want to change," said Letourneau, who just spent two hours instructing students on

gangs, "It is not an easy job."

Who joins gangs?

There is no specific concrete answer to this question. There are numerous factors that contribute to the reason why someone would want to first, get "jumped" in, that means going getting beaten up for a period of time, and second live a life that is filled with violence, murder, drug use and drug selling, and any other form of negativity you can think of as a way of life.

That is just it. It is a way of life for people in places where police do not even want to go. These places are called projects, affordable housing complexes, the poor parts of town where you are afraid to walk at night.

The members usually join at a young age, when life is just opening up for them. This life so far has been bad enough for them to think that belonging to a gang is okay. It is sad, but it is the truth. Lack of love from parents, if there are even parents there, is the main reason. So these kids turn to the next best role model, the guy driving a nice car with money and girls. What else do you need for a kid who is looking for a father figure or a brother, who is

looking for any way to make money and survive?

The average age of gang members that get arrested and come to Mr. Letourneau are 14 to 22 years old. "Sometimes the choices are pretty hard. These kids that grow up in poor neighborhoods either join a gang or get beat up and bullied daily until they join."

Making Positive Changes

With Police Leagues and programs in jails, the only way to fight it is to give these kids a way out. They did not have love growing up, so the answer is in giving love to them and showing them another way to live life.

Look around, there are signs everywhere written on the walls as graffiti, telling you to beware: gangs are here to stay. But they will only stay if you let them, and awareness is the key to understanding gangs and learning more about how to stop them from growing. Letourneau's mission is in education people about gangs in hopes that knowledge will eventually help stem the flow of gangs in the world.

Jesse Soares Busted by FBI

BCC News Brief

Jesse Soares allegedly robbed Joe's Gas Station on Nash Road in late September. Soares was a student at BCC's New Bedford Campus.

The store was robbed with a plastic gun, a samurai sword and a sawed off shotgun.

Soares allegedly stole candy, cigars, cigarettes and cash before escaping in a minivan which was later apprehended by the FBI Task Force Gang Unit.

I will be "going away for 7 to 8 years for this" and I am "going to bust this place up," he told an officer according to news reports.

He will face charges of resisting arrest, armed robbery, assault with a dangerous weapon and possession of a sawed-off shotgun, according to news reports.

New Band Sunshine Death Records Demo

By Chris Proctor

BCC student Josh Barberie former vocalist for the band Dhoulmagus is in a new experimental metal band called Sunshine Death.

In Sunshine Death, Josh and Nick Jacobs play guitar, accompanied by Paul Rice on drums. Right now Sunshine Death is looking for a bassist and a vocalist. They are looking for devoted members that want to have fun and create some powerful music. Paul added, "the more diverse a musician is and the more devoted they are the better final product in all our songs".

Barberie's old band was once on the BCC radio channel for an interview and he would enjoy going back on-air with his new band mates to promote their project. "Once we record our first demo we really are thinking of getting our songs played on the BCC radio," said Barberie.

After Sunshine Death records their

demo they were thinking of giving it out for free online or creating an EP and selling it for a few dollars to willing listeners.

Sunshine Death's music is very happy up lifting beats with a grungy trash metal background. Nick Jacobs calls their music "solar thrash" with a lot of upbeat riffs.

"I believe we are very unique and sound very uncommon," Jacobs said.

Besides recording and returning to the stage, the band is thinking of making a music video after they record finish recording.

"We do not have a Myspace yet, we are waiting till we have something recorded," Barberie said.

The band's quest for new members has been difficult, but they are determined to find two more members who are just as passionate about the creative process and power of music.

If anyone is interested in being a part of Sunshine Death and their journey to band-hood, you can contact Josh either on campus or at Mass Music Complex in Taunton, Massachusetts.

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GOOD SPORTS

Red Sox Buy British Soccer Team

By Ana Loreto

New England Sports Ventures (NESV), owners of the Boston Red Sox, officially bought Premier League British soccer team, Liverpool Football Club (REDS).

The REDS new owners John Henry, chairman of NESV, and Tom Werner, chairman of the Boston Red Sox, bought the British soccer team for \$300 million when it was put for auction.

Henry and Werner plan to refurbish the REDS official field that is situated in the heart of Liverpool.

"We are eager to commence with our plan, spend time with the organization, its leadership, its supporters, and the local communities, Henry said.

The merger between the two very different sports and two different cultures is a huge milestone considering the huge fan base of the two clubs.

Anthony Rose, Head Coach for

the men's soccer team at BCC believes that this purchase is beneficial for both sides.

"Liverpool will once again rise to the top of the EPL after a strong US based ownership team infuses much needed money into signing top tier players and stabilizing the crippling debt that now haunts this once proud franchise. While it may take 2-3 years, the rebuilding process by an astute leadership team will restore the glory that was once Liverpool, Rose said.

Josh Davies, a BCC freshman soccer player said, "There is a bright future since the Boston ownership takeover."

Davies fellow team mate, freshman Perry Liborio said, "Soccer has always been popular in foreign countries but, in the United States the average person will kick back and watch a baseball game."

"However, with NESV purchasing the Liverpool Football Club, people may gain more respect for soccer in the United States," Liborio said.

"I personally find this as a great opportunity for soccer to explode and gain popularity," he said.

BCC player Rui Almeida had a different point of view.

According to Almeida, "This has become the new trend for sport teams around the world. Teams/Clubs spend excessive amounts of money on players putting them in financial debt. The amount of money spent on buying players has become astronomical. Due to this kind of spending, many teams fall on hard financial times and must resort to selling their teams to the highest bidder; passing a team from one financier to the next, this does nothing more than cause instability not only within the team, but also its fans."

BCC Names New Athletic Director

BCC News Brief

Derek Viveiros has been named as BCC's new Athletic Director.

Viveiros holds a Masters Degree in Sports Management and most recently worked at Iowa Wesleyan College.

His office is located in G-117.

Students are encouraged to stop in and welcome him to the college.

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BCC Men's Basketball in Contention

By Sarah Mulvey

The Bristol Community College men's basketball team has developed into a major contender in its NJCAA division. Their impressive debut season has become something of BCC legend, as well as the rigorous standards these student athletes have maintained.

In order to play and remain a part of the team, each athlete must have a full twelve credit schedule, maintain a C- average, and attend classes without fail. Head Coach Robert Delaleu has implemented the progress report program to keep a close eye on the academic strengths and weaknesses of his athletes.

He believes that basketball is a channel for his students to achieve their goals. He states "My guys probably won't make money playing basket ball....but they will definitely make money in a field they choose. Basketball is a tool that will assist them in reaching these potential goals."

The strengths learned here at BCC will help ensure the success of his students both on and off the court.

Coach Delaleu holds his players to a higher level of academic performance than is required by NJCAA regulations. He has his players sign a contract stat-

ing that they will maintain a 3.2 GPA, instead of the standard 3.0 required by the association. He and his staff feel that this ensures that the players will work harder to maintain the level of excellence expected of them, placing themselves ahead of other team's players maintaining the lower GPA.

The team also makes time for a study hall session, where all members of the team get together to help each other study. The progress reports are circulated to each student's professors every two weeks. Players must have perfect attendance or the instructors will not sign off on the reports, thereby prompting Coach Delaleu to contact them directly to address issues the student may be having in class. Failure to participate or turn in reports leads to game suspension. Repeated neglect leads to termination from the team.

Coach Delaleu hopes to instill a hard work ethic in his students that will help them on and off the court. He believes that success in the classroom is essential to success in all aspects of an athlete's career. According to Coach, "It's not all about what you do on the court. Without the classroom there is no court."

TEXTING, From Page 1

Texting By The Numbers

"National Safety Council estimates that at least 1.6 million crashes are caused each year by drivers using cell phones and texting."

- Talking on a cell phone while driving can make a young driver's reaction time as slow as that of a 70-year-old.

- 56% of teenagers admit to talking on their cell phones behind the wheel, while 13% admit to texting while driving. (Note: Because this information was given voluntarily by teens, actual cell phone use numbers may be much higher.)

- 48% of young Americans from 12-17 say they've been in a car while the driver was texting.

- 52% of 16- and 17-year-old teen drivers confess to making and answering cell phone calls on the road. 34% admit to text messaging while driving.

- In 2007, driver distractions, such as using a cell phone or text messaging, contributed to nearly 1,000 crashes involving 16- and 17-year-old drivers.

- Over 60% of American teens admit to risky driving, and nearly half of those that admit to risky driving also admit to text messaging behind the wheel.

- Each year, 21% of fatal car crashes involving teenagers between the ages of

16 and 19 were the result of cell phone usage. This result has been expected to grow as much as 4% every year.

- Almost 50% of all drivers between the ages of 18 and 24 are texting while driving.

- Over one-third of all young drivers, ages 24 and under, are texting on the road.

- For every 6 seconds of drive time, a driver sending or receiving a text message spends 4.6 of those seconds with their eyes off the road. This makes texting the most distracting of all cell phone related tasks.

- Teens say that texting is their number one driver distraction.

- At least 28% of all traffic crashes – or at least 1.6 million crashes each year – are caused by drivers using cell phones and texting.

- An estimated 1.4 million crashes each year are caused by drivers using cell phones and a minimum of 200,000 additional crashes each year are caused by drivers who are texting.

(Sources: Virginia Tech Transportation Institute (VTI) and The Transportation Safety Group at the National Safety Council)

New BCC Gaming Club On Campus

By Amanda Csorba And Sarah Mulvey

The Fall River campus cafeteria and lounge is a hotspot for student activity. Some go for lunch, others for conversation. And still others, for epic battles between classmates through the use of video game characters on the big screen TV.

The Gaming Association was fostered in this environment, springing up from the interests of like-minded student gamers.

The Association was founded in order to legitimize the well-organized group that had come to be a well-known quirk of the student lounge.

Current President Kevin Almeida

wanted to build up the club and give it an active and useful purpose. By actively recruiting members, the club has begun to develop a tournament event.

The group has decided to build upon the popularity of group gaming and using old favorites such as Super Smash Bros Brawl, Halo, and various fighting games.

The club also consists of card and board games such as Yo-Gi-Oh and Magic: the Gathering.

Tournaments have always popped up sporadically as the group converged on G Building, but for a while it died down due to disinterest and lack of participation.

The Gaming Association hopes to build it back by providing fun and diverse opportunities for gamers to come

and see what's available during their breaks. The more formal versions of the tournament are going to require small entry fees, but Kevin doesn't see this

as an issue. The money made from the events will go towards new equipment and the big dream; a new television for the lounge.

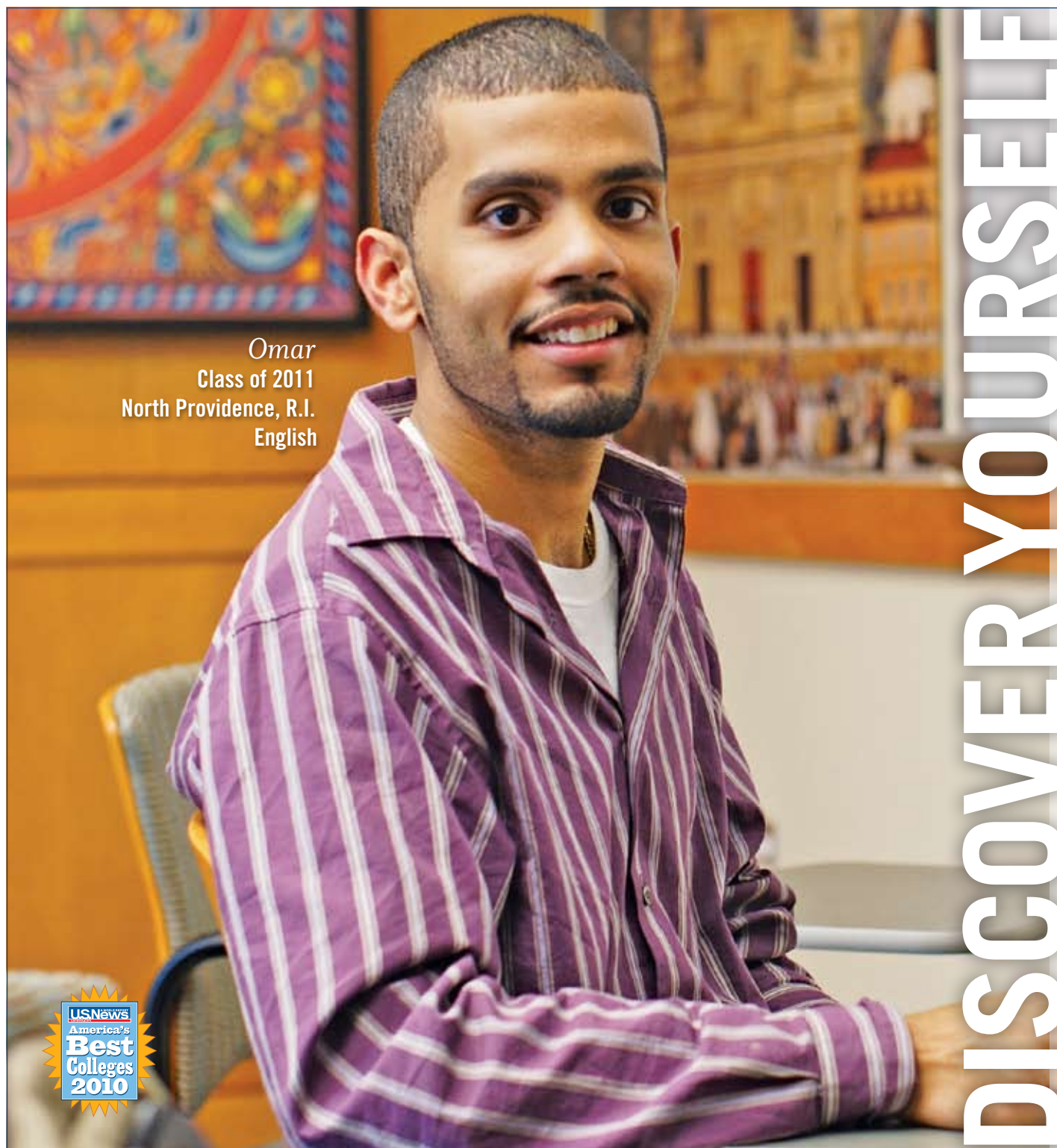
The club meets on Thursdays from 2-5 with staff meetings occurring on Tuesdays at the same time.

Almeida encourages students interested in joining to come by any time and talk to the staff and share their ideas.

Everyone is encouraged to join, according to Almeida

"If you wanna have a good time, spend it with the geeks," he said.

'If you wanna have a good time, spend it with the geeks'



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When Omar transferred to RWU, he knew he wanted to jump right into the community. A member of the Multicultural Student Union and an Orientation Advisor, Omar made connections all over campus. When the English major decided to take a class in Latino/Latina Literature, the fact that RWU didn't offer one didn't stop him. Omar proposed the class, found a professor to teach it, rounded up some students and had the course accepted by the Provost. Omar is paving his own way at RWU. What will you do?

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