White House announces ASU to lead National STEM Collaborative

Posted: September 15, 2015

The White House has announced that Arizona State University will lead the National STEM Collaborative, a consortium of 19 institutions of higher education and nonprofit partners committed to supporting minority girls and women in STEM fields.

The announcement by the White House Council for Women and Girls reflects the national recognition earned by ASU’s Center for Gender Equity in Science and Technology and the center’s executive director, Kimberly A. Scott, in encouraging greater access to STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) for women and girls of color.

"Too many African-American, Latina and Native American women are pushed out of the STEM experience in college," said Scott, who also founded the nationally lauded CompuGirls program, which introduces young girls from under-resourced school districts to technology. "Today’s announcement will help empower young women."

There are many reasons why women do not enter and persist in STEM fields. Members of the National STEM Collaborative are committed to exploring those reasons and implementing scalable solutions.

"We need to transform the way STEM is taught," said Jo Handelsman, associate director of the White House Office of Science Technology and Policy. "By encouraging innovations in STEM teaching,
White House announces ASU to lead National STEM Collaborative

Posted: September 15, 2015

The White House has announced that Arizona State University will lead the National STEM Collaborative, a consortium of 19 institutions of higher education and nonprofit partners committed to supporting minority girls and women in STEM fields.

The announcement by the White House Council for Women and Girls reflects the national recognition earned by ASU's Center for Gender Equity in Science and Technology and the center's executive director, Kimberly A. Scott, in encouraging greater access to STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) for women and girls of color.

"Too many African-American, Latina and Native American women are pushed out of the STEM experience in college," said Scott, who also founded the nationally lauded CompuGirls program, which introduces young girls from under-resourced school districts to technology. "Today's announcement will help empower young women."

There are many reasons why women do not enter and persist in STEM fields. Members of the National STEM Collaborative are committed to exploring those reasons and implementing scalable solutions.

"We need to transform the way STEM is taught," said Jo Handelsman, associate director of the White House Office of Science Technology and Policy. "By encouraging innovations in STEM teaching, addressing the issue of bias, and also awareness of the types of teaching we use, we are trying to promote positive images of scientists and engineers and promote new ways of teaching that will benefit a broad group of diverse students."

ASU's Center for Gender Equity in Science and Technology (CGEST) sees a transformative mission for the collaborative: not simply filling the STEM pipeline with more girls and women of color, but creating an environment in which that happens naturally.

Members of the collaborative will help assemble a tool kit and online workshops, train hiring managers and key personnel in addressing bias, track the experiences and support of women of color in STEM majors and build a database of programs that help them.
ASU senior Courtney Besaw, who is studying psychology, has seen firsthand the challenges for women in pursuing a degree in a STEM field.

"I think the biggest challenge is feeling the need to prove yourself," Besaw said. "Most of my professors are male... Sometimes I feel the need to be the best in order to prove that I deserve to be there just as much as my other classmates."

ASU will lead nine educational institutions and nine nonprofit groups in the collaborative. The educational institutions are: Amherst College, City College of New York, Diné College, Maricopa Community Colleges, Spelman College, University of Alabama, University of California–Riverside, University of Maryland–Baltimore County, and the Project on Race & Gender in Science & Medicine at the Hutchins Center for African and African American Research at Harvard University.


ASU’s leadership role follows a July roundtable on inclusive STEM education, co-hosted by CGEST and the White House Council on Women and Girls. CGEST takes an active role in shaping the conversation surrounding gender equity in STEM, including through such initiatives as CompuGirls.

"Programs like CompuGirls are a good start," said Besaw. "Getting girls interested, involved and motivated early may help push some students from the 'want to do' mentality to the 'can do' mentality."

Firoz Jameel, firoz.jameel@asu.edu
480-727-4058
Media Relations
A Migration Juggernaut Is Headed for Europe

SEPT. 15, 2015

Eduardo Porter
ECONOMIC SCENE

European leaders probably don’t want to hear this now, as they frantically try to close their borders to stop hundreds of thousands of desperate migrants and asylum seekers escaping hunger and violence in Africa and the Middle East. But they are dealing with the unstoppable force of demography.

Fortified borders may slow it, somewhat. But the sooner Europe acknowledges it faces several decades of heavy immigration from its neighboring regions, the sooner it will develop the needed policies to help integrate large migrant populations into its economies and societies.

That will be no easy task. It has long been a challenge for all rich countries, of course, but in crucial respects Europe does a particularly poor job.

Perhaps it’s not surprising, as a recent report by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development found, that it is harder for immigrants to get a job in European Union nations than in most other rich countries. But that doesn’t explain why it is also harder for their European-born children, who report even more
discrimination than their parents and suffer much higher rates of unemployment than the children of the native-born.

Rather than fortifying borders, European countries would do better to improve on this record. The benefits would be substantial, for European citizens and the rest of the world.

Over the summer, as Hungary hurried to lay razor wire along its southern border and E.U. leaders hashed out plans to destroy smugglers' boats off the coast of North Africa, the United Nations Population Division quietly released its latest reassessment of future population growth.

Gone is the expectation that the world's population will peak at nine billion in 2050. Now the U.N. predicts it will hit almost 10 billion at midcentury and surpass 11 billion by 2100. And most of the growth will come from the poor, strife-ridden regions of the world that have been sending migrants scrambling to Europe in search of safety and a better life.

The population of Africa, which has already grown 50 percent since the turn of the century, is expected to double by 2050, to 2.5 billion people. South Asia's population may grow by more than half a billion. And Palestine's population density is expected to double to 1,626 people per square kilometer (4,211 per square mile), three times that of densely populated India.

Over the next several decades, millions of people are likely to leave these regions, forced out by war, lack of opportunity and conflicts over resources set in motion by climate change. Rich Europe is inevitably going to be a prime destination of choice.

"With Africa's population likely to increase by more than three billion over the next 85 years, the European Union could be facing a wave of migration that makes current debates about accepting hundreds of thousands of asylum seekers seem irrelevant," wrote Adair Turner, the former chairman of Britain's Financial Services Authority and now chairman of the Institute for New Economic Thinking.

Europe's initial reaction to the flow has been mixed, at best. Germany, notably, has committed real resources to help cover the basic needs of hundreds of thousands of refugees it expects to welcome this year. But that is hardly the spirit across the
board. And Europe is still mostly focused on steeling its borders, even to the point of closing many of its once free-flowing internal boundaries.

Better options exist. The rich history of immigration around the world suggests that new migrant populations could be integrated into the European social fabric to the benefit of Europeans, the new immigrants and even the regions of the world they left behind.

Take Britain, where the government of Prime Minister David Cameron came into office promising to cut net annual immigration from “the hundreds of thousands to the tens of thousands.”

Researchers at Britain’s National Institute for Economic and Social Research and the University of Ottawa estimated that carrying out the policy would cut Britain’s income per head, increase public spending and raise income taxes to pay for it. All things considered, by 2060 Britons’ wages would be 3.3 percentage points lower than had the government left the immigration rate alone.

These dynamics apply across the developed world. Frédéric Docquier of the Université Catholique de Louvain in Belgium, Caglar Ozden from the World Bank and Giovanni Peri of the University of California, Davis, found that immigration from 1990 through 2000 had a positive effect on the wages of native workers — including low-wage workers — in virtually all the 34 countries in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Rich countries with lower fertility rates and older populations benefit from young migrants of working age, who help rev up their slowing labor supply. From 2000 to 2010, migrants accounted for nearly two-thirds of European labor force growth. Immigrants bring diversity to complement the attributes of domestic workers: different levels of education and productivity and different consumption patterns.

They spur business investment to take advantage of the additional labor supply. They prompt domestic workers to switch into occupations that leverage their language skills and other comparative advantages.

Despite popular perceptions to the contrary, migrants are often highly educated, and they generally do not burden the public purse. Stefano Scarpetta, director of the
department of employment, labor and social affairs at the O.E.C.D., said immigrants often contribute more in taxes than they draw in public benefits.

What's more, the countries sending migrants abroad often benefit, too.

"Remittances transfer some of the gains from the increased productivity of migrants back to the natives that remained in the home country," wrote Julian di Giovanni of the Universitat Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona, Andrei Levchenko of the University of Michigan and Francesc Ortega of the City University of New York.

Of course, the most sensible response to large-scale immigration must include helping unstable, impoverished countries in Africa and beyond overcome the demographic pressure that stunts their development, as Mr. Turner advocates. Investment in human and physical capital simply can't keep up with population growth. Neither can job creation.

Achieving the demographic transition to lower mortality and fertility rates will require not only investing in women's education and encouraging contraceptive use but also freeing women to make their own reproductive choices.

In the meantime, Europe's challenge is real. Receiving millions of migrants of different races, religions and cultures from far-flung lands will pose political, economic and social challenges to European countries that remain to this day fairly homogeneous.

Social scientists have acknowledged the importance of Europe's racial and cultural homogeneity in building political support for expensive welfare states with robust safety nets. It was easier for white, Christian Europeans to tolerate high taxes if they went to pay for benefits for white, Christian Europeans like themselves.

Access to jobs is a critical precondition for success. But the overall task is greater, to eventually close the socio-economic gaps between immigrants and their descendants and native Europeans. "What matters is the integration of the migrants in receiving countries," Mr. Scarpetta said. "This will not occur by itself."

In the end, the choice is clear. Europe's best shot at prosperity is to build upon the diversity that immigration will bring.
Here's How to Make Sense of the New College Scorecard

Graduating students at Barnard College

(MANDEL NGAN/AFP / Getty)

Sep 16, 2015 · by Beth Fertig
The federal government recently released a treasure trove of data on the nation's colleges and universities. It's called the College Scorecard <https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/> , and it enables students and families to rank colleges based on several factors including price, estimated earnings after graduation and student debt.

But like any massive data dump, it can be overwhelming <http://www.npr.org/sections/ed/2015/09/12/439742485/president-obamas-new-college-scorecard-is-a-torrent-of-data> . That's why we spoke with Robert Kelchen, an assistant professor of higher education at Seton Hall, and Corbin Campbell, an assistant professor of higher education at Teachers College Columbia University, about five things they thought you should pay attention to when combing the data, and building your own lists.

**Cost.** The average cost you see for each school is only for students receiving financial aid. So if the annual cost is listed at $22,000, that's how much students getting financial aid can expect to pay on average. That number can range tremendously among private schools, depending on how generous they are with their endowments. Pro Publica <https://www.propublica.org/article/colleges-flush-with-cash-saddle-poorest-students-with-debt> took a deep dive comparing Columbia University and New York University, and found financial-aid students pay an average of $8,086 per year at Columbia ($8.2 billion endowment) compared to $25,441 at NYU ($3.5 billion endowment)

**Graduation Rates.** "All students think they are going to complete college but they won't all complete," said Kelchen. Colleges with really low graduation rates are obviously a red flag. But keep in mind that those with really high graduation rates might be "only taking students who are likely to succeed."

**Earnings.** These salaries refer to what people are making 10 years after starting college. Again, our experts advise to proceed with caution. "Remember that the earnings data are both for most people who complete college and people who don't," said Kelchen, meaning if you see an average annual salary of $50,000 also look at the school's graduation rate. If it's low, that may mean the school is including dropouts who can be
less successful on average (aside from people like Bill Gates).

Average salaries at a school also include different majors, which can vary tremendously at a liberal arts institution. This could explain why the average salary of those leaving Yale is lower than those leaving the Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences ($66,000 per year versus $110,000). Likewise, students who attend prestigious music and art schools have lower average salaries than those who attend engineering and medical programs.

This is why Campbell warns against paying too much attention to earnings. "Higher education isn't just sort of a certification that you can bring to an employer. It's also changing minds and changing the way students think," she said.

**Better than High School Grads?** Everyone talks about how a high school diploma is practically worthless these days. The scorecard tells you what percentage of those who attended each college make more money than the average high school graduate, whose annual earnings six years later after getting a diploma are $25,000. It compares that $25,000 average that to what students from each school make 10 years after they start. "We want that number to be close to 100 percent [higher]," said Kelchen, to determine whether the college is doing part of its job.

**Loan Repayment Rate:** You can see what percent of students who attended each school are able to pay more than just the interest on their loans within three years. Kelchen said this is very useful. "It doesn't mean they make a lot of money, but they're able to make enough to repay their debt, at least in part."

Academics probing the raw data have been pulling out other interesting findings. Kelchen looked at the percentage of students at each school who are the first in their families <https://kelchenoneducation.wordpress.com/2015/09/14/which-colleges-enroll-first-generation-students/> to go to college. He shared his findings for the tri-state area: at CUNY's campuses, 40 to 50 percent of students are first-generation, compared to 12.6 percent at Bard, almost 20 percent at Fordham and 25 percent at Princeton.
Brooklyn Man Sought in Similar Deaths of 2 Women at Hotels

By AL BAKER and J. DAVID GOODMAN  SEPT. 15, 2015

It was July 23 when the first woman was discovered dead in Room 3 of a Brooklyn hotel, her body bearing the telltale signs of strangulation, the police said. On Sept. 8, a second woman was found dead, this time at a hotel in Midtown Manhattan.

The deaths of the women, both discovered in midafternoon, naked and alone, appeared disconnected until detectives found a link to a 36-year-old man whom each is believed to have spent time with: Joseph Danclair.

On Tuesday, the police said that they wanted to speak with Mr. Danclair, a Brooklyn resident, because he had been seen on video leaving both hotels, and they released images of his face and several of his tattoos — praying hands on his right arm, a rose on his left.

“He meets these ladies on the street, engaging them in conversation, from what we can understand, and then goes from there,” Robert K. Boyce, the chief of detectives, said. “That’s what we got from two witnesses who were with them at the time.” Chief Boyce said online sites such as Craigslist or Backpage.com did not appear to have played any role in forging the connection.

The first woman, Chrissy Bevelaqua, 34, was found at 4:32 p.m. inside a room at
the Bushwick Hotel, a two-story stucco building on Bushwick Avenue in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn. Chief Boyce said there was “petechial hemorrhaging, the eyes, the eyeballs” and some “bruising around her neck” that suggested strangulation, but he added that the cause of death had yet to be determined by the New York City medical examiner.

Ms. Bevelaqua’s sister, Joely, said, “I have no idea what she was doing there.” Of Mr. Danclair, she said she had “never seen him before.”

Ms. Bevelaqua lived on Staten Island with her four children, ages 6 to 17, and was pursuing a degree at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, her sister said. “She was six months short of it,” she said. “My parents are destroyed. They’re destroyed.”

Nearly seven weeks later, the body of Antoinette Marin, 43, was found at 4:15 p.m. inside the Manhattan Broadway Hotel. Its entrance on 38th Street, just off Eighth Avenue, is jammed between two Asian takeout-style restaurants eateries on a block crowded with fabric shops. Ms. Marin, who had children though she was not their caretaker, had “no criminal history at all,” Chief Boyce said.

A woman working behind the desk inside the Manhattan hotel on Tuesday declined to comment on the discovery of one of the women there. She said that hotel prices varied but that the cost of a room for Tuesday night would be $259, plus tax.

It was a lieutenant from the Brooklyn North homicide squad who noticed similarities in the death of Ms. Marin in Manhattan and that of Ms. Bevelaqua, which detectives in Brooklyn were investigating, Chief Boyce said. “We found similarities in the condition of the hotel room, which I am not going to speak to now,” he said. “But they were similar enough that we believe it’s the same individual.”

Chief Boyce said detectives were able to recover a fingerprint “from one of the crime scenes,” though he would not say which one. “That fingerprint identified an individual by the name of Joseph Danclair,” he said.

Mr. Danclair, who has a history of 28 arrests stretching back to 1995, appears to be “very similar” to the person seen on the videos, said Chief Boyce, but he added that Mr. Danclair “has pretty much no violence in his background.” Most of his arrests are for drug possession and sales, the chief said.
Though both victims were naked, Chief Boyce said “we did not find” evidence of sexual abuse. He said detectives believed the two women “went willingly with him to the hotel.”

In one of the video images the police released, the man is seen standing by a hotel entryway, dressed in jeans and a white T-shirt. In another, he seems to be at the same hotel, this time wearing jeans and a blue tank top and carrying a plastic bag. In both, he is wearing a camouflage baseball cap. The police said the man was seen on video entering the hotels with the women and exiting alone.

According to state corrections documents, Mr. Danclair, whose last known address was on Parkside Avenue in Brooklyn, has spent time in prison, most recently for criminal possession of a controlled substance. He was released on parole in late 2009 and completed his parole supervision a year later, officials said.

On Parkside Avenue on Tuesday, a cousin of Mr. Danclair’s said that Mr. Danclair never lived there and that the last time he saw Mr. Danclair was in late July. The cousin, who declined to give his name, said officers came to question him on Tuesday.

He called the news about Mr. Danclair “shocking” and said it was “not who he is.”

Kate Pastor and John Surico contributed reporting, and Susan C. Beachy contributed research.

A version of this article appears in print on September 16, 2015, on page A23 of the New York edition with the headline: Brooklyn Man Is Sought in Two Deaths at Hotels.
Students Misled Investigators in Baruch College Hazing Case, Authorities Say

By RICK ROJAS and BENJAMIN MUELLER  SEPT. 15, 2015

POCONO SUMMIT, Pa. — The authorities in Monroe County, Pa., said on Tuesday that it took them nearly two years to begin bringing charges against fraternity members in the hazing death of a Baruch College freshman in 2013 because they were misled by students and forced to pursue a grand jury investigation to compel them to testify.

A grand jury has recommended that five people face third-degree murder charges and that a total of 37 would face a range of criminal charges, including assault, hindering apprehension and hazing in Chun Hsien Deng’s death on Dec. 9, 2013.

The police said Mr. Deng, 19, known as Michael, died of blunt force trauma during a fraternity retreat here in this bucolic stretch of Pennsylvania, apparently given during a hazing ritual. He was blindfolded and made to wear a backpack weighted with sand while trying to make his way across a frozen yard as members of the fraternity, Pi Delta Psi, tried to tackle him.
The authorities described a painstaking investigation, stitching together dozens of interviews to construct a narrative of what happened and working to determine the level of culpability of the people who were there or might have otherwise been involved.

“That’s part of why this investigation took so long,” Michael Rakaczewski, an assistant district attorney, said in a news conference on Tuesday. “We want to make sure it was a thorough investigation.”

Lawyers for some of the students criticized prosecutors for failing to use their discretion in deciding which of the men should face charges and for putting pressure on them to testify during the grand jury process.

“I think everybody got charged,” said Hugh H. Mo, a lawyer who represents Danny Chen, one of the students who eventually took Mr. Deng to the hospital and was charged with hindering apprehension, hazing and criminal conspiracy. “You should make a distinction about the degree of culpability, or some distinction of who should be charged.”

But the authorities said they had been stymied by members of the fraternity, Pi Delta Psi, who tried to mislead them.

The police “met with a lot of individuals who refused to cooperate,” Mr. Rakaczewski said.

Some of them, he added, “lied to the police, they hid and tried to hide evidence, and a lot of that was based on trying to cover up and hide the fraternity’s involvement in the case.”

Chief Chris Wagner of the Pocono Mountain Regional Police Department said in the news conference that “it was planned, and it was a, we’ll say, a group effort,” on the part of people connected to the fraternity trying to thwart the investigation.

Part of the reason officials pursued a grand jury investigation is because
it had subpoena power and could coerce members of the fraternity into testifying, prosecutors said.

Prosecutors said they were following the recommendation of a grand jury in charging the 37 people, including charging five of them — and the fraternity — with third-degree murder.

“Some of these individuals have a greater responsibility in this event than others,” Chief Wagner said. “It did take investigators a while to really filter that and determine exactly who did what and what their degree of involvement was in the case.”

In an interview on Monday night, E. David Christine Jr., the Monroe County district attorney, acknowledged investigators took their time to reach this point. “We prefer to be careful here,” he said.

Among those charged with lesser counts is Andy Meng, who had been the national president of the fraternity; the authorities said that fraternity members at the retreat reached out to Mr. Meng while Mr. Deng was unconscious, and he encouraged them to hide items related to the fraternity.

Todd Greenberg, Mr. Meng’s lawyer, said in a statement that Mr. Meng “was not present in Pennsylvania at the time of his death, had no role in his medical treatment and did not commit any wrongdoing regarding the investigation of his death.”

Mr. Meng is the brother of Representative Grace Meng, a Democrat from Queens, Mr. Mo said.

Mr. Mo described the prosecutors’ approach as “very harsh,” saying they had unfairly compelled students to testify before many of them had lawyers. He said that the majority of the men were still not represented, and that many came from immigrant families lacking the wherewithal to get good legal advice.
“Who actually participated? Who instigated? Who is the leader?” Mr. Mo said. “Those are the people that should be charged.”

Baruch College, part of the City University of New York, said in a statement on Tuesday that it had permanently banned the Pi Delta Psi fraternity after Mr. Deng’s death, and had also suspended all pledging activities for campus Greek organizations starting in the fall of 2014.

Since then, participation in Greek life has dropped at the Manhattan college, the statement said. The college declined to comment on the disciplinary status of any students involved, though Mr. Mo said the majority of the students were forced to leave school.

“We owe it to Michael and his family to hold accountable those who were responsible for the senseless death of this promising young man,” the Baruch College president, Mitchel B. Wallerstein, said in the statement.

In an effort to not overburden the court system here, officials said they would spread out the charges over the coming weeks.

“We’re starting with the people that we believe are the least involved and working our way up to the most serious charges involved,” Chief Wagner said.

The authorities said they were taking the case “very seriously” and found the actions of the people at the retreat and of fraternity leaders troubling. Mr. Rakaczewski said an official prohibition of such hazing activities meant little if they were still quietly condoned.

“That’s improper and it’s illegal, and we do want to hold everybody involved accountable, including the fraternity as well,” he said.

The fraternity itself is among those facing the most serious of charges, including third-degree murder and assault.
“Obviously, you can’t put a fraternity or a corporation in jail,” Mr. Rakaczewski said, “but you can hold them responsible, part of that is financially.”

Rick Rojas reported from Pocono Summit, Pa., and Benjamin Mueller from New York.
Baruch president: Greek life ‘a very small part’ of undergrad culture

By CONOR SHELDING 2:24 p.m. / Sep. 15, 2015

A day after 37 former fraternity brothers were indicted in a Baruch College pledge's 2013 death, Baruch president Mitchel Wallerstein said Greek life "is a very small part of the undergraduate culture at Baruch."

Wallerstein said in a statement Tuesday that of the school's 15,000 undergraduates, "less than 100 students" participate in fraternities or sororities.

"Since the moratorium on pledging that began in the fall of 2014, student participation in Greek organizations has decreased even further," he said.

In 2013, Michael Deng, who had pledged the Pi Delta Psi fraternity — since permanently banned at Baruch — was knocked unconscious during initiation activities at a fraternity event in rural Pennsylvania.

MORE ON POLITICO
- City Hall Pro: De Blasio's new ed agenda; Kelly vs. Bratton
- New rules, rising homeless numbers led to increased shelter contracts
- Report: Construction of schools, hospitals skyrocketing

Police say that rather than call 911, the brothers called a national fraternity administrator, who advised them to hide fraternity items. Later, they drove Deng to a hospital, where he died of head trauma, police said.

Wallerstein said that since Deng's death, the college "has taken strong action to ensure the safety and well-being of all students who participate in student organizations on
campus," including the fall 2014 moratorium on new members.

He said that he could not comment on individual students, but that "Baruch conducted its own internal judicial review of students involved in this incident and brought disciplinary proceedings against all of them, except for those who voluntarily withdrew from Baruch College."

"We owe it to Michael and his family to hold accountable those who were responsible for the senseless death of this promising young man," Wallerstein said.

CORRECTION: An earlier version of this story incorrectly identified the 37 indicted former fraternity brothers as being from Baruch College. Not all of them were affiliated with the school.

MORE: EDUCATION CITY HALL BARUCH COLLEGE CLNY EDUCATION FRATERNITY GREEK LIFE HAZING HIGHER EDUCATION LAW MICHAEL DENG IT DELTA PSI PUBLIC SAFETY
POCONO SUMMIT, Pa. — The fraternity brothers decided that Chun Hsien Deng had a bad attitude.

Like three other Pi Delta Psi fraternity pledges who went before him on a cold December morning in 2013, Mr. Deng was forced to run across a frozen yard through a knot of his fraternity brothers, while he wore a blindfold and a backpack weighted down with 20 to 30 pounds of sand.

The gantlet, called the Glass Ceiling, symbolized their burden as Asian-Americans trying to break into the mainstream. The backpack stood for the weight of their fraternity bonds, one member told the police, according to a grand jury report.

Mr. Deng, a freshman at Baruch College whose parents emigrated from China, did not fall into line.

He fought back, kicking one of the men lined up to tackle him, a fraternity brother told investigators. A second told the police he did not say the things he was supposed to, adding, “He got the 'Bros' mad.”

So the brothers hit harder.
One ran at Mr. Deng from 15 feet away and plowed into him with his head lowered, in a move known as the spear, student witnesses said. Others pushed him to the ground, the force of each blow amplified by the weight on Mr. Deng's back.

After they were done, Mr. Deng was dying from brain and bodily injuries, a prefinals weekend retreat had turned into the scene of a murder investigation, and his fellow pledges, big brothers and fraternity leaders were its primary suspects.

Prosecutors in Pennsylvania said this week that they intended to charge five people with third-degree murder and 32 others with a range of counts, including assault, hindering apprehension and hazing in the death of Mr. Deng, known as Michael, on Dec. 9, 2013.

American colleges have struggled for years to tamp down on fraternity hazing, a task that has bedeviled administrators as they try to curb sprawling late-night parties, relying on witnesses with fierce loyalties to their student groups. If nothing else, the details of Mr. Deng’s death, as described in the grand jury’s report released on Tuesday, show how hard it has been to control the violence.

Baruch, a public commuter school in the heart of Manhattan, barely has a Greek scene to speak of, and the retreat happened in a weekend rental house in Tunkhannock Township, Pa., in the Pocono Mountains, more than 100 miles away. Yet so many students participated, according to the authorities, that their court appearances have to be spaced out so as not to overwhelm the small courthouse where they are being charged.

Pi Delta Psi’s Baruch colony, founded in 2010, was designed to help Asian-American students — many of whom were the children of immigrants — find a place in the pecking order of a school buzzing with aspiring businesspeople.

For Mr. Deng, a competitive handball player who graduated from the Bronx High School of Science, the group offered “the possibility of personal connections, friendship, a sense of belonging to the Asian community, and having access to some of those connections because he intended to be involved in international business,” a family lawyer, Douglas E. Fierberg, said on Tuesday.

But the Glass Ceiling was a manifestation of the barriers they faced, and a test for
new pledges to prove they could surmount them. "We should help each other to enter
the mainstream of society," said Hugh H. Mo, a lawyer for one of the defendants,
echoing the group's guiding philosophy.

On that December morning, he said, the tradition took on a "Lord of the Flies"
dynamic.

After they were done tackling him, Mr. Deng's brothers carried him inside the
two-story home. His body felt like a "dead weight," one member later told the police,
according to the grand jury report. Another described it as "straight like a board."

He was laid down near the fireplace and stripped of the black hooded sweatshirt
and black sweatpants that were his uniform for the initiation. They put him in a
blanket, then gave him water and chocolate and put sugar on his lips to try waking
him up.

After 10 minutes, Mr. Deng "started sucking air and making snoring sounds,"
one member said. Some students noticed his pupils did not dilate.

They reached out to the fraternity's national president at the time, Andy Meng,
who told them by phone to hide everything showing the group's symbol, according to
the grand jury report. One member told the police that "the protocol is to first put
away fraternity letters, paddles, banners etc.," to shield the organization.

The brothers grew nervous, but not nervous enough to call an ambulance.

"Kwan stated no one called for an ambulance because someone looked it up and
the bill/cost was too high," the grand jury report says, citing the account of Kenny
Kwan, who prosecutors say will be charged with murder in the tackling on Mr. Deng
that started with a 15-foot running head start.

Instead, they pulled up their cellphones' browsers and searched for terms like
"Concussion can't wake up," "snoring but not waking up" and "pupils don't dilate."
One member asked for advice from a friend whose grandfather had recently fallen
and died.

It was an hour before three members took him to the hospital. He was
mumbling, shivering and snoring, as if he had phlegm stuck in his throat.

There, doctors found constellations of bruises spread across his head, cheeks, back and thighs. His head injuries were so severe that a doctor determined they would have required “hundreds of pounds of impulsive loads.” He also had traumatic asphyxia, likely from hits or tackles magnified by his backpack’s heavy load.

When investigators searched the home, whose facade of brick and siding gave it the stately look of a traditional fraternity house, they found Mr. Deng’s clothes stuffed in a garbage bag. Despite the members’ best efforts, the police also found clothing, paddles, banners, signs and notebooks, all bearing the fraternity’s logo.

Then it came time for the authorities to determine responsibility. But some of the members “lied to the police, they hid and tried to hide evidence, and a lot of that was based on trying to cover up and hide the fraternity’s involvement in the case,” Michael Rakaczewski, an assistant district attorney in Monroe County, Pa., said at a news conference on Tuesday.

Prosecutors decided to pursue a grand jury investigation, they said, because the grand jury had subpoena power and could require members of the fraternity to testify.

Mr. Mo, who represents one of the students who took Mr. Deng to the hospital and is being charged with hindering apprehension, hazing and criminal conspiracy, described the prosecutors’ approach as “very harsh,” saying they had unfairly compelled students to testify before many of them had lawyers. He said that a majority of the men were still not represented, and that many came from immigrant families lacking the wherewithal to get good legal advice.

“You should make a distinction about the degree of culpability, or some distinction of who should be charged,” Mr. Mo said. He added: “Who actually participated? Who instigated? Who is the leader? Those are the people that should be charged.”

Asked about the investigation, Mr. Rakaczewski, the prosecutor, said only that criminal defendants “have all the rights afforded them under the Constitution and can file whatever pretrial motions they deem appropriate.”
Efforts in person and by phone to reach the men facing murder charges were unsuccessful on Tuesday. The mother of one man, Daniel Li, said in Mandarin outside their home in Queens before closing the door: "He's been in a very terrible mood. Please understand." Lawyers for three of the men either declined to discuss the charges in detail or did not respond to phone messages. Prosecutors also said they would charge the fraternity with murder, saying that would allow them to hold the organization responsible financially.

Todd Greenberg, a lawyer for Mr. Meng, the former national fraternity president who was charged with hazing and hindering apprehension, said in a statement that Mr. Meng "was not present in Pennsylvania at the time of his death, had no role in his medical treatment and did not commit any wrongdoing."

His sister, Representative Grace Meng, a Democrat from Queens, expressed condolences for Mr. Deng's family in a statement and added, "I love my brother very much and as his sister I'll be here for him as he goes through the legal process."

Baruch College said in a statement on Tuesday that it had permanently banned the Pi Delta Psi fraternity after Mr. Deng's death, and had also suspended all pledging activities for campus Greek organizations starting in fall 2014. It declined to comment on the disciplinary status of any students involved, though Mr. Mo said a majority of the students were forced to leave school.

At least two of the fraternity members facing charges were students at St. John's University, including one, Raymond Lam, who graduated last year and was one of those charged with murder. The university said it was never notified of the investigation, and so did not take any action against the students.

Mr. Fierberg, the lawyer for Mr. Deng's parents, who have sued the fraternity and several of its members, said they were disturbed by the revelation on Tuesday that some members had undressed him after his injury, and that they had singled him out for worse abuse because he resisted.

"He's saying, 'Do not do this to me,' " Mr. Fierberg said, "and the result is they do it worse."

Rick Rojas reported from Pocono Summit, and Benjamin Mueller from New York.
Elizabeth A. Harris, Nate Schweber and Jeffrey E. Singer contributed reporting from New York, and Susan C. Beachy contributed research.

A version of this article appears in print on September 16, 2015, on page A1 of the New York edition with the headline: Defiant Pledge Fought Back in Fatal Hazing, Report Says.
Five Fraternity Members Charged in Hazing Death of Baruch College Student

A grand jury has recommended charges for 37 people in the death of Chun 'Michael' Deng

Associated Press
Sept. 15, 2015 10:47 a.m. ET

POCONO SUMMIT, Pa.—Five fraternity members, including the former national president, have been charged in the Pennsylvania hazing death of a freshman pledge from Baruch College in New York.

Police said Tuesday they are arresting suspects in waves, moving from least to most culpable. A grand jury recommended charges for 37 people in the December 2013 death of Chun “Michael” Deng, a student at Baruch.

Authorities say staggering the arrests will keep courts from being overwhelmed.

Former Pi Delta Psi President Andy Meng and four members were charged Tuesday with hazing, conspiracy and hindering apprehension.

Police say fraternity members waited an hour to take Mr. Deng to the hospital after he fell unconscious while weighted down and forced to run a gantlet.

—Copyright 2015 The Associated Press.
37 Fraternity Brothers Face Charges in Hazing Death of Baruch Freshman Michael Deng

By Margaret Hartmann

A grand jury has recommended charges against 37 fraternity members from a Manhattan college after a freshman died following a hazing ritual in December 2013. During a weekend retreat to Pennsylvania's Pocono Mountains, members of the Baruch College chapter of Pi Delta Psi blindfolded four pledges and had them run across a frozen field while wearing a backpack full of sand as members tackled them. The New York Times reports (http://www.nytimes.com/2015/09/15/nyregion/5-from-baruch-college-face-murder-charges-in-2013-fraternity-hazing.html?_r=0) that 19-year-old Michael Deng was hit several times and complained that his head hurt, but kept participating. After he was knocked unconscious, the fraternity brothers took him back to the house, changed his clothes, Googled his symptoms, and called the frat's national president, who allegedly told them to hide Pi Delta Psi items. Deng was having trouble breathing when three brothers finally drove him to the hospital, and he died the next morning of severe head trauma. The medical examiner said the delay "significantly contributed" to his death.

Five brothers will face charges of third-degree murder, involuntary manslaughter, and aggravated assault. The maximum sentence for third-degree murder is 20 years in prison. Others will face charges including hindering apprehension, hazing, and criminal conspiracy.

E. David Christine, the district attorney in Monroe County, Pennsylvania, said the investigation took nearly two years because authorities had to "try and make sure people were put in the right category of involvement." Hugh Mo, an attorney for Danny Chen, who faces some of the lesser charges, said it's "regrettable that the DA and the Grand Jury made no distinction as to the individual culpability of each of the young man who was present." He added that he believes some of the defendants will be acquitted and, "the tragic death of Michael should not be used to ruin the life of so many young Asian American college students, the bulk of them [who] fully cooperated with the DA and testified before the grand jury."
How You Lie Depends on Where You're From

By Sarah Laskow

This is a universal truth: Human beings are terrible at spotting liars. Say you're in a situation with two people, where one is making a statement—it might be true, it might be false—and the other person is trying to determine if that person is lying. The likelihood that you're going to make the right choice is about 54 percent—just above what you'd get if you guessed randomly. Even tests for detecting deception—not just old-school polygraphs but scans for behavioral cues and newer, brain-scanning lie detectors—are questionably accurate.

"You could say that people are bad at detecting lies," says Maria Hartwig, an associate professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice who studies deception. "But one way to look at this rate is that it's a very difficult task. The differences between liars and truth tellers are so small that it's very, very difficult to tell the difference."

But some aspects of lie detection, especially those elements measured by lie detector tests, might be cultural. For instance, what if the person who might be lying is speaking a second language? What if she grew up in a different place than you, with different social norms? How difficult is it to spot a liar then? Is there any hope for a scientific approach?

Since their invention, lie detecting machines have been an "American obsession" according to Ken Alder, the author of The Lie Detectors, glorified during the years of the Cold War, when the country was obsessed with ferreting out spies and liars.

But lie detection is not just practiced by Americans on Americans. In Turkey a team of researchers recently created a polygraph customized to Turkish culture, since, as professor Nevzat Tarhan told the Hurriyet Daily News, "That which can be considered a lie by regular polygraphs used in the West may not be considered a lie by Turkish people." At border crossings, in business negotiations, in immigration hearings, and in criminal and military interrogations, people who come from all different places are trying to determine if people born and raised across the world are telling the truth or if they're lying.

The people trying to make these judgments have few tools to work with, to understand how the place a person comes from might affect their behavior when they lie. "There may be things that are the same across cultures,
Nobody likes a liar. That schoolyard truism has been borne out in research around the planet. In a 1960s study, subjects were given a list of 250 adjectives and asked to rate them on likability; liars came in dead last. In another study, when tens of thousands of people across the world were asked if lying in your own interest is ever justified, almost half said no.

And it turns out that there are some common behavioral patterns in what we think liars do. In 2006, when an International group of Investigators, called the Global Deception Research Team, asked people in 58 countries, “How can you tell when people are lying?” they found a remarkable degree of agreement.

“We were expecting to see all kinds of opinions,” says Hartwig. “The results were just incredibly consistent. The vast majority of cultures agreed that people look shady when they don’t look you in the eye, when they don’t move a lot and when they contradict themselves.”

In particular, people around the world agreed that liars would avert their gaze. Sixty-five percent of the study respondents listed that as a sign of lying, and in 51 of 58 countries, they found that gaze averted was “more prevalent than any other belief about lying.”

Too bad that all those people across the world are wrong about that: As the deception researcher David Matsumoto wrote a few years ago, “No scientific evidence exists to suggest that eye behavior or gaze aversion can gauge truthfulness reliably.”

Detecting a lie is much more complicated than noticing that someone won’t meet your eye. Many of the behavioral cues that we associate with lying are simply signs of stress: The actual difference in behavior associated with telling a lie is very small. That’s why, as Hartwig says, it’s not necessarily that we’re bad at detecting these shifts. It’s that they’re almost impossible to see.

What people can detect, though, is when a person they’re talking to acts differently than they might expect. And people who live in different places do act differently, in some ways. One study, for instance, showed that Japanese students smiled more frequently to express “social appropriateness” than actual pleasure. Another showed that people from the Middle East were more likely to touch each other and talk loudly. People from Suriname tilt their heads more than Dutch people, another study found. If you’re trying to judge whether a person’s lying, and they’re acting strangely, you might assume it’s because they’re lying.

A number of studies have shown that when people try to detect lies across cultures, they’re often thrown off. One of the first studies to look at this problem, in 1990, had American and Jordanian students try to judge whether each other were lying. And while Americans could tell with some accuracy whether Americans were lying, when they tried to judge the Jordanians’ truthfulness, they did worse than if they had flipped a coin. And studies since have shown the same thing—figuring out if someone from a different place is lying is incredibly difficult.
At the same time, people from different places do lie differently.

While around world, there are rules against lying, what counts as a lie differs from place to place. As one polygraph operator who served during World War II and worked for the CIA wrote in 1987, "In most cultures, speaking truth is a virtue and lying is a vice," but "the polygraph operator working overseas learns to modify his theory somewhat." Other 20th-century American polygraph operators reported that "the Russians value truth among their fellow citizens but will unhesitatingly lie if they perceived doing so as a duty to the state" and that "lying to prevent problems between people is acceptable in Arab culture."

While this might be somewhat essentialist, research has borne out the idea that cultural differences change how people lie.

Visit Atlas Obscura for More

Monopoly in the Park: San Jose’s Discovery Meadow is home to the largest permanent Monopoly board in the world. Check it out.

"We've know that for quite a long time," says Taylor. "What constitutes lying in other populations can be very distinct from what constitutes lying in Western cultures." In some places, little white lies that smooth social situations might not be considered lies at all, for instance. Or, says Castillo, "if you view lying as a way of protecting your family and if family is culturally important to you, you won't be nervous lying."

Cultural differences also impact how people lie when they do. In "individualistic" cultures, like America, liars often try to distance themselves from the lie—they'll use fewer first-person pronouns. In "collectivist" cultures, where community is more important, the exact opposite is true: Liars will try to distance the community from the lie.

All this doesn't mean, though, that every country should be investing in its own place-specific lie detector. Rather, researchers are honing in on different strategies to detect lies to begin with—for instance, using interviews to elicit facts that can be checked against their existing knowledge or researched later, rather than using a person's body language to judge their truthfulness on the spot.

In the end, even the best, most culturally sensitive lie detector would have to deal with the variability of individual human behavior—and that can be confounding no matter where people were born or raised, or how they happen to tilt their head while talking.
Press Release

People With Disabilities Get Direct Access Through New Application

Oct 15, 2015 - (Newswire)

The TOUCH or Therapeutic Outreach Uniting Community Health application was launched in April 2015. Senior TOUCH Developer Gerry Libertelli, received help from an unexpected source. This help came from Adam Lieberman, an adult diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome.

On March 26, Lieberman was apart of a "Beta" test group who came in to test the TOUCH website and give their feedback. According to Libertelli, "I started to get testing results from Adam. What impressed me about his work was that it was very detailed oriented". Libertelli described Adam's test results as "better than professional testers". Lieberman, a Queens College graduate in 1992 with a Bachelor of Arts in Computer Science is very familiar with computer programming and building websites.

Adam was able to find errors on the new user sign-up form. "You never want to give up a user on the Internet. It is very valuable to have a user come to your site and sign up," says Libertelli. "The net result of Adam's testing was that we were able to launch with a solid sign-up system," he added. When asked if he would like to continue working with Adam in the future, Libertelli emphatically said "yes", adding "I absolutely think Adam could work in this business, I see no difference in what Adam did for me in an email, than what a professional tester does".

When asked about his experience working with the "Beta group" Lieberman stated, "It is an honor to be an individual receiving services from TOUCH, and selected to help test the site". Libertelli discussed the feedback he has received from people using the site since its initial launch. "We have had great feedback from the providers, family members, and all of the users have been so complimentary. They cannot believe, there is finally a resource that links these resources directly to the person".
TOUCH has been working diligently since the Spring, to create the improvements its users have requested. Not only can you find a provider close to where you live, you can now post events, find events, share events and even work directly with your Job Coach to find the most appropriate job for you.

TOUCH understands you have a lot going on so they wanted to streamline the manner in which providers are publicizing your events and how people access information to your events, all for free. The Events Calendar offered through TOUCH allows providers and professionals to post their upcoming events and it allows people, families, professionals and advocates to find out about your events and save them in their event carts! This is a great way to share information about your upcoming events to get as many people involved as possible.

To get registered on TOUCH, please visit www.touchnys.org.

Team de Blasio is quietly gutting welfare reform

By Fred Siegel

Rudy Giuliani was right: There's a relationship between crime and welfare. When people work, they're less likely to commit crime. Yet, as Joe Scarborough recently observed on MSNBC, what was universally known as the "New York miracle" appears to be steadily eroding.

We're aware of the increasing murder rates, and we see rising homelessness. But changes in welfare policy come into view more slowly.

For 20 years, the Human Resources Administration, NYC's behemoth welfare agency, oversaw the largest drop in welfare dependency in the United States: from 1.1 million New Yorkers on welfare in 1995, when Mayor Dinkins left office, down to 380,000, when Mayor de Blasio, Dinkins' intellectual heir, assumed office in 2014.

How was this remarkable transformation achieved? By little more than requiring the
able-bodied to seek work and accept reasonable job opportunities. Before Giuliani became mayor, New York City’s welfare rolls swelled as welfare recipients were placed in training programs, as well as in GED and CUNY-college classes.

In those bad old days, the Human Resource Administration typically instructed welfare recipients that they needed more training to be hired — and that job offers that were secured were not good enough. Back then, many on the dole would undertake four training programs or more with no job to show for it.

Under Giuliani, this all changed. Suddenly, HRA assumed that welfare recipients not only could work, but also desired to work. Today, the city, under new HRA Commissioner Steven Banks, is slowly but surely reinstituting the failed welfare policies of decades past.

To whom do New Yorkers owe this stroke of inspiration? In part, they can thank Community Voices Heard, the city’s offshoot branch of the notorious nonprofit ACORN — yes, the same one exposed by undercover investigators in 2009 for teaching people how to organize underage prostitution rings and avoid taxes and a group whose anti-work, “welfare-rights” agenda finds an increasingly receptive audience at HRA.

Indeed, Commissioner Banks has introduced a dizzying array of new initiatives, such as “career advance,” “career bridge,” “career compass,” and “youth pathways” to make the old (NYC’s failed emphasis on job training) appear new. For example, youth pathways is expected to serve at least 18,000 young New Yorkers with nine separate grants.

Little matter that it was not evaluated for effectiveness before being scaled-up; or that self-reported, participant data from similar programs elsewhere reveal that such efforts are overwhelmingly unsuccessful, despite costing thousands of dollars per participant.

In HRA’s grand new welfare vision, city bureaucrats, via so-called bridge programs, will evaluate welfare recipients’ progress toward entering the workforce. Further bureaucratic evaluations will decide what career pathway and bridge programs to place welfare recipients into.

Securing actual jobs for welfare recipients is now barely mentioned, but HRA’s strategy certainly will keep social-service professionals fully employed. All the while, Work First contracts, the proven best way to reduce welfare dependency, will be terminated.

Banks says he wants HRA to be a “kind, more gentle” welfare agency. In practice, this means showing up for HRA appointments and looking for work is suggested, not required. As a result, participation levels are dropping at the HRA’s Back 2 Work programs.

As the city moves in the wrong direction, Congress is moving the other way, as it seeks to tie federal welfare funding to stronger work requirements. Indeed, should the city’s new emphasis on training over work lead to big drops in work-participation rates, Gotham can expect substantial financial penalties for failing to meet federal work-participation requirements.

Today, New York already has one of the country’s most costly welfare systems. The costs of further increasing its welfare rolls will be considerable.

But Commissioner Banks and his ACORN allies welcome the rise in public dependency to right the supposed wrongs inflicted by previous administrations.

In the next 12 months, the de Blasio administration is on course to dismantle one of urban America’s greatest public-policy achievements of recent decades. What a shame: The bad old days are on the horizon.

Fred Siegel is a contributing editor of the Manhattan Institute’s City Journal.
Michael Deng: 37 Baruch College Pi Delta Psi Fraternity Members Charged in 2013 Hazing Death

37 members of the Baruch College chapter of the Pi Delta Psi fraternity will face criminal charges in Pennsylvania in relation to the 2013 death of Chun Hsien Deng.

According to The New York Times, five members will be charged with third-degree murder, sometimes referred to as voluntary manslaughter. The other 32 members face charges including assault, hindering apprehension, conspiracy, and hazing.

Deng, who went by Michael, was a 19-year-old freshman at Baruch trying to join the fraternity when he went with other pledges and fraternity members on a weekend trip to the Poconos in Dec. 2013. The pledges were forced to walk across a field in the freezing cold while blindfolded and given a backpack filled with sand to carry. As the pledges went, fraternity members would tackle them at random.

On one such occasion, a fraternity member "spearred" Deng by lifting him off his feet before tackling him to the ground. Authorities stated this was when Deng started complaining about a headache, but was force to continue with what was apparently a pledge ritual, The Times reported.

Deng later collapsed and died, but authorities also believe the fraternity members delayed seeking emergency medical attention for the 19-year-old freshman. NBC News reported the members called the Pi Delta Psi national president, Andy Meng, before calling an ambulance. Meng faces charges for allegedly advising the fraternity members to hide anything with the Pi Delta Psi emblem on it.

The medical examiner who analyzed Deng's body concluded that this apparent, inexplicable delay in calling emergency services was detrimental for Deng.

The Associated Press learned the police will make their arrests in "waves" to keep the courts from handling too many defendants at once. The police will also start by arresting those with the least serious charges against them and continue by trending upward.

Deng's family have already filed a lawsuit against Baruch College and the Pi Delta Psi fraternity.

"Too many families have been devastated as a result of fraternity hazing, with at least one student dying every year from hazing since 1970," Douglas Fierberg, the family's attorney, told NBC News. "Fraternities and their members must be held accountable, and this step by authorities is an important one," he said. "Michael was a wonderful, beloved young man, and, in his honor, the family will also continue pursuing its wrongful death case against the fraternity to cause it and other fraternities to change so that other parents will be spared the loss of a precious child."
Five fraternity members charged in
death of Baruch College freshman

Five fraternity members were charged with murder and 32 others face criminal charges for their involvement in the 2013 hazing death of a freshman from Baruch College in New York City.

By Beatrice Gisara, Staff | SEPTEMBER 15, 2015

Nearly two years after a college student died during a fraternity hazing ritual in Pennsylvania’s Pocono Mountains, murder charges have been filed against five people.

Members of New York City’s Baruch College Pi Delta Psi fraternity brutally assaulted Chun “Michael” Deng during an initiation rite in September 2013 and delayed taking him to the hospital, contributing to his death, police said.

Officials said he was blindfolded, saddled with a 30-pound backpack full of sand, and repeatedly tackled while he tried to walk toward a target across a frozen field. Mr. Deng eventually complained that his head hurt then fell unconscious.

Recommended: Are you as well read as a college sophomore? (/Books /2013/0424/Are-you-as-well-read-as-a-college-sophomore/Pride-and-Prejudice-by-Jane-Austen)

Pi Delta Psi fraternity members did not call 911 after Deng passed out, and allegedly waited an hour before bringing him to a hospital, police say. They did, however, find time to change Deng’s clothes, Google his symptoms, and contact Andy Meng, the fraternity’s national president to
seek advice, Police Chief Chris Wagner said at a news conference.

"At this point, members began to hide paraphernalia and basically put the fraternity's well-being over that of Michael Deng's," Chief Wagner said.

He could not be revived and he died the next morning, according to an autopsy report. Deng was subjected to repeated blunt force trauma to his head, torso, and thigh.

"Too many families have been devastated as a result of fraternity hazing, with at least one student dying every year from hazing since 1970," Douglas Pierberg, an attorney representing Deng's family, said in a statement.

"Fraternities and their members must be held accountable, and this step by authorities is an important one."

A Monroe County grand jury recommended third-degree murder charges for the first five members. Thirty-two other fraternity members, including Mr. Meng, will also be charged with assault hazing and criminal conspiracy.

"We want to hold not only the individuals involved, but if there's an organization that sanctioned it, whether officially or unofficially, we're going to hold them accountable as well," Wagner said at a news conference Tuesday.

Baruch College banned the fraternity and the national fraternity revoked its affiliation with the local chapter.

This report includes material from the Associated Press and Reuters.
5 People Charged in Baruch College Hazing Death

December 2013 death took place off campus in Pocono Mountains during frat party.

**Michael Rubinkam, Associated Press**

POCONO SUMMIT, Pa. (AP) — Five people, including the former national president of a fraternity, have been charged in the death of a New York City college freshman during a hazing ritual in Pennsylvania, police said Tuesday.

Fraternity members at Baruch College physically abused Chun "Michael" Deng, then tried to cover it up as the 19-year-old lay dying in their rented house in the Pocono Mountains, police said.

Pocono Mountain Regional police planned to arrest suspects in waver, moving from least to most culpable, after a grand jury recommended charges for 27 people in Deng's December 2013 death.

The first five suspects, including former Pi Delta Psi President Andy Meng, were charged with hazing, conspiracy and hindering apprehension and were making arrangements Tuesday to turn themselves in.

Fraternity members waited an hour to take Deng to the hospital after he was blindfolded, forced to wear a heavy backpack and then repeatedly tackled during a hazing ritual known as glass ceiling. Police Chief Chris Wagner said at a news conference.

Deng fell unconscious and was carried inside the house while fraternity members called Meng, changed Deng's clothes and did a Google search of his symptoms.

[READ: High Schools Work to Build Awareness of Hazing]

"At this point, members began to hide paraphernalia and basically put the fraternity's well-being over that of Michael Deng's," Wagner said.

Three fraternity members eventually took him to the hospital, where he died a day later.

The grand jury recommended third-degree murder charges for the fraternity itself and five people. Dozens of other fraternity members face lesser charges ranging from aggravated assault to hazing.

The fraternity organization could be forced to pay a fine if convicted, according to Michael Rakaczewski, assistant district attorney in Monroe County.

Deng was the last of five pledges to be hazed that weekend, going through three progressively more difficult stages that lasted about 25 minutes each, Wagner said.

It was during the last stage that Deng suffered the fatal blows, including football-style tackles in which he was "speared," the chief said.

[MORE: Many Students Experience Hazing in High School, Study Says]

"The overall investigation shows that he was singled out and he was treated harsher than the other pledges," said Wagner. He declined to say why Deng was forced to suffer the extra abuse, calling it part of the investigation.
A forensic pathologist determined Deng suffered repeated trauma to the head, torso and thighs, and "the forces were significant and severe," police said in a statement.

Baruch College has said it had no knowledge about the event. The college banned the fraternity and the national fraternity revoked its affiliation with the local chapter.

Fraternity officials did not immediately return an email seeking comment on the charges.

Authorities say staggering the arrests will keep courts from being overwhelmed.

Copyright 2015 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.
Columnist and Author Juan González Joins King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center at NYU

September 15, 2015

Pioneering journalist, columnist, and cultural historian Juan González has joined the King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center at New York University for fall 2015, becoming the first Latino and first Puerto Rican ever to hold the prestigious Andrés Bello Chair in Latin American Culture and Civilization. He will host three timely public conversations, the first one scheduled Wednesday, September 23, at KICC, located at 53 Washington Square South, New York, N.Y., tel. 212.998.3650. Please see below for further details.

González is a columnist at the New York Daily News and co-host of Democracy Now! and a founder of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists. He is the author of the influential Harvest of Empire: A History of Latinos in America. He is also the author of Roll Down Your Window: Stories from a Forgotten America, and News For All The People: The Epic Story of Race and the American Media. Newly in residence at KICC, he has designed a remarkable series of lectures, events and public conversations on the Puerto Rican Debt Crisis, the history of Latino Studies, and the cultural and political legacy of the Young Lords. He will be hosting a dialogue with Lin Manuel Miranda and Sonia Manzano on Latino Performing Artists and their Communities, and discussing Rebel Latino Writers in American Journalism. He will also be teaching a graduate course on Latino American Journalism through the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies.

Three events, all free and open to the public, are coming up:

On Wednesday, September 23, at 7:00 p.m., González will host a conversation on "The Young Lords and the Modern Latino Community," with: Johanna Fernandez (assistant professor of history, Baruch College, and author of the forthcoming book, When the World Was Their Stage: A History of the Young Lords Party, 1968-1974); Darrel Wanzer-Serrano (assistant professor of rhetoric and public advocacy, The University of Iowa; author of The New York Young Lords and the Struggle for Liberation); Iris Mohnes (former leader of the Young Lords Party and producer of the PBS documentary, Palante, Siempre Palante!); and Mickey Mejía (founder of SalsaNet and author of We Took the Streets: Fighting for Latino Rights with the Young Lords.)

On Wednesday, October 7, 7:00 p.m., González will host "Expanding the Narrative: The Struggle for Latino Studies and American Higher Education," with: Virginia Sánchez-Korrol (professor emerita and former chair of the Department of Puerto Rican and Latino Studies at Brooklyn College, City University of New York; and Carlos Muñoz Jr. (professor emeritus and founding chairman of the Department of Chicano/Latino Studies at UC Berkeley).

On Monday, November 16, 7:00 p.m., González will host "Latino Performing Artists and Their Community: Lin Manuel Miranda and Sonia Manzano in Conversation with Juan González," with: actor and playwright Lin-Manuel Miranda (composer and star of Hamilton, and Tony and Grammy Award winner for In the Heights); and actress Sonia Manzano (15-time Emmy Award winner as Maria on Sesame Street, and author of becoming Maria: Love and Chaos in the South Bronx.)

González will also deliver two public lectures this fall:

On Wednesday, October 21, 7:00 p.m., he will speak on "Puerto Rico's Debt Crisis: Economic Collapse in America's Biggest Colony And What Can be Done About It."

On Wednesday, December 2, 7:00 p.m., he will give a talk on "Tribunes for the People: Rebel Latino Writers in American Journalism, From Ricardo Flores Magón and José Lezama Limón to Jesus Colón."

During a career of more than 35 years, Juan González has become one of the nation’s best-known Latino journalists. A staff columnist for New York’s Daily News since 1987, he has also been co-host for the past 18 years of Democracy Now! (a daily news show that airs on more than 1,300 public and community radio stations in the US and Latin America. González’s investigative reports on urban affairs, the labor movement, the environment, race relations and political troubles in Latin America have won widespread recognition, including two George Polk Awards for commentary and a 2004 Leadership Award from the National Hispanic Heritage Foundation.

One of the original founders of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists (NAHJ), González served as the association’s president from 2002-2004 and was elected to its Hall of Fame in 2008. Even before he entered journalism, González distinguished himself as a leader of the Young Lords, a militant civil rights organization of the late 1960s, and of the National Congress for Puerto Rican Rights in the 1970s. Born in Ponce, Puerto Rico, he was raised in East Harlem and Brooklyn, New York. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Columbia University, has been a visiting professor in public policy at Brooklyn College.

For more information, call the Center at 212.998.3650 or visit KICC (http://www.nyu.edu/kicc).
Should College Athletes Be Allowed to Unionize?

Marc Edelman argues they are employees and entitled to certain rights; Zev J. Eigen sympathizes with their situation but says the law is clear.

Sept. 15, 2015 10:01 p.m. ET

Men's college football and basketball can be a gold mine, for the schools and the winning bidders of the broadcast rights. For the players, also known as students, the spoils aren't so easily attainable.

A happy few will become successful professional athletes, stars in their respective leagues. For them, the potential rewards can prove well worth the sacrifices made during their college years: the injuries, the classes missed, the surrendering of certain rights enjoyed by other students. For those many other athletes whose ambitions won't be fully realized, however, the effects of such sacrifices can continue to be felt for the rest of their lives.
JOURNAL REPORT

- Insights from The Experts (http://blogs.wsj.com/experts/category/leadership/)

MORE IN BIG ISSUES: EDUCATION

- Should Colleges Get Rid of Fraternities? (http://www.wsj.com/articles/should-colleges-get-rid-of-fraternities-1442368892)
- Should College Athletes Be Allowed to Unionize? (http://www.wsj.com/articles/should-college-athletes-be-allowed-to-unionize-1442368889)

A push by football players at Northwestern University to unionize, and so be recognized as employees entitled to certain rights and compensation, failed this summer when the National Labor Relations Board unanimously declined to grant the athletes employee status. The board didn’t rule on the question of employee status, but instead declined to extend its jurisdiction over college football, citing potential negative consequences if it did so.

A large gray area thus still exists over the future and the rights of college athletes. Arguing that the athletes should be allowed to unionize is Marc Edelman, an associate professor of law at Baruch College Zicklin School of Business in New York City. Zev J. Eigen, an associate law professor at Northwestern University School of Law, takes the position that the athletes have legitimate grievances but that unionization is not the answer.

YES: It’s Time to Give Students More Control Over Their Employment

By Marc Edelman

Unions, where effective, enable workers to present a uniform front to management, articulate workplace concerns and engage in collective action such as strikes when important employee needs are not met.

There is no question that college athletes in the Football Bowl Subdivision of the National Collegiate Athletic Association and Division I men’s basketball conferences would benefit greatly from such representation.

These athletes currently lack any influence over the terms and conditions of
their employment. A union would help them win new financial rights, and secure improved health-care benefits and pension plans. A union also might help them obtain important protections such as notice and a hearing before being punished, and perhaps even give them the freedom to voice their opinions on social media without their college’s interference.

The truth is, college football and basketball players are employees as defined by common law, which says the proper test for an employment relationship is one where a person performs services for another under a contract of hire, subject to the other’s control or right of control. Region 13 of the National Labor Relations Board ruled that the revenue-generating football players at Northwestern University are employees because the college benefits financially from their work and controls most aspects of the athletes’ day-to-day lives. The full NLRB declined to grant jurisdiction over Northwestern football players, based in part on its belief that doing so would create an unstable bargaining unit, but it didn’t reverse the lower body’s finding that some college athletes indeed constitute employees.

Left in this limbo, college athletes have little, if any, bargaining power. This inequity is most obvious when it comes to their financial compensation (or, more precisely, their noncompensation). Currently, the college sports industry is valued at upward of $11 billion. Yet none of this revenue is shared directly with the athletes. Instead, the NCAA and its member colleges enforce a principle of amateurism that levies penalties against member colleges that provide athletes with benefits beyond a predetermined amount.

**Poverty line**

Not only does this prevent elite college athletes from earning free-market salaries, it further leaves an estimated 85% of all college athletes who are on scholarship below the poverty line. Under current NCAA rules, college athletes aren’t even allowed to endorse products or sign autographs for money; only the coaches and athletic directors are allowed to do that.

Equally troubling, college athletes lack proper long-term health insurance and disability benefits for on-field injuries, and aren’t directly compensated by their colleges for lost earning potential due to injuries. Furthermore, many college athletes are denied such basic freedoms as permission to choose their living quarters, and to determine their own class and study schedules. At some colleges, men’s basketball players are required to miss upward of 20% of their
spring-semester class days for athletic purposes, even though these colleges promise their athletes a full education in exchange for their athletic services.

Some warn that opening the doors to unionization will jeopardize college sports that don’t bring in revenue. But those sports are even less likely to meet the NLRB conditions for unionization than the revenue-producing sports, and bargaining-unit instability again would likely result. Further, even if unionization were allowed, if it proved to cause colleges to cut particular sports, the players and other rational participants in those sports would not have the incentive to even attempt to unionize.

**Student input**

It is worth noting that, in the early days of college sports, all aspects were governed exclusively by the students. Since then, the power pendulum has shifted in the opposite direction, with universities and their senior employees now controlling even the minutiae. With unionization, this power pendulum could shift back and restore some student control over college athletics.

Given that no court or division of the NLRB has ever held that revenue-generating college athletes are *not* employees, one could reasonably presume they should be entitled to all of the rights that typically coincide with employment status. There are many ways for college sports to achieve that. But the current arrangement under which college athletes have few, if any, economic rights certainly is not among them.

*Mr. Edelman is an associate professor of law at Baruch College Zicklin School of Business in New York City. He can be reached at reports@wsj.com.*

**NO: College Athletes Work Hard, but They Are Not Employees**

**By Zev J. Eigen**

College athletes should not be allowed to unionize. Simply put, federal law has always only allowed employees to join a union. College athletes are not employees, and universities are not their employers.

College athletes may work very hard for very long hours. And, for some of the athletes, that may translate into a lot of revenue for the universities. But that does not transform them into employees, nor should it. If hard work turned college students into employees, scholarship students with exceptionally challenging majors should be considered “employees,” too.
The relationship between students and their universities is not an employment relationship. The fundamental exchange for all students and all universities is tuition money for an education. Some college athletes get comped the tuition in exchange for playing a sport, but that does not alter the fundamental nature of their relationship with the school.

Athletes are students first, even if they receive a discount on tuition. If a restaurant comped meals for a celebrity in exchange for his or her lending their celebrity status to the restaurant (generating revenue for the business), no one would suggest that the celebrity is therefore an employee of the restaurant. That's because the fundamental relationship between the celebrity and the restaurant hasn't changed—it's still money for food.

Revenue generation is not a factor in determining whether an employment relationship exists. Could an entity argue that loss of revenue resulting from individuals' efforts repudiates an employment relationship? That has never been a winning argument, nor should it become one now. Letting college athletes organize in a union as employees would fundamentally alter how the law regards the categories of “employee” and “employer.”

**Risk to other sports**

Furthermore, most college sports are not revenue-generating machines. Crew, tennis, track, gymnastics, fencing, wrestling and many other sports do not make money. If football and basketball players were allowed to unionize, athletes in those other sports would likely at least be granted employee status, requiring universities to comply with federal and state minimum requirements for

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>University</th>
<th>Total Revenues</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>University of Texas at Austin</td>
<td>$161,035,184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>University of Alabama</td>
<td>$152,588,651</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Ohio State University-Main Campus</td>
<td>$143,718,564</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>University of Michigan-Ann Arbor</td>
<td>$135,869,791</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Louisiana State University</td>
<td>$132,828,429</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>University of Oklahoma-Norman Campus</td>
<td>$129,220,692</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
compensating and insuring employees. This would significantly raise the cost of these non-revenue-generating programs. The costs might increase even more if those students also unionized. Such increased costs would likely cause non-revenue-generating programs to shrink or be shut down.

Advocates of unionizing tend to focus on the raw deal some student-athletes receive from universities. I am extremely sympathetic to the situation of college athletes. Some are gambling with their future by forgoing substantive learning opportunities for time spent playing a sport. For many, that gamble doesn’t pay off. And, universities profit immensely from this system. But that does not somehow transform student athletes into “employees” in the eyes of the law, nor does it justify ignoring the law to permit them to unionize.

I do think it makes sense to fix the NCAA system, or to impose other rules to ameliorate the situation. There could be easy fixes if one were starting from scratch, such as a dual-track model for college admissions. There should be a “student” track, which is the traditional primary exchange of an education for money. “Students” may still try out for athletic teams, but they are students first and foremost. The second track is “athlete.” Athletes would be paid employees of the universities. As part of their compensation, they could be permitted to earn a degree sometime after their employment contract expires, up to a reasonable amount of time, say 20 years.

**Questions of control**

Hopefully the winds of change coming from the public’s growing taste for tectonic disruption through innovation will blow through higher education and improve the fundamental relationship between education providers and students, including but not limited to student-athletes.

But alas, powerful stakeholders that profit greatly from retention of the status quo make big changes such as this difficult to implement.

In the meantime, giving the athletes a seat at the bargaining table will not guarantee increased student control over college athletics. It could end up decreasing the autonomy of athletes and increasing the rigidity and formality of rules imposed on athletes.
Baruch College frat member charged with murder in pledge’s death says freshman was ‘just unlucky’

BY JOE MCDONALD, LARRY McSHANE / NEW YORK DAILY NEWS / Updated: Tuesday, September 15, 2015, 10:19 PM

Fraternity Hazing Death Murder Charges
NY Daily News

A Baruch College fraternity member facing murder charges in a pledge’s ugly hazing death said the doomed teen was just “unlucky” — despite a ferocious beating by the frat brothers.

Eyewitness testimony made public Tuesday in the December 2013 killing of Chun (Michael) Deng also revealed that members of Pi Delta Psi ignored a call to back off during a lethal pledge ritual dubbed the “glass ceiling.”

Deng, 19, was blindfolded and battered while lugging 20 pounds of sand in a knapsack as the brothers “speared” him — plowing headfirst into the pledge like a football player blindsiding a defenseless victim, officials said.

Among the 37 Pi Delta Psi members facing charges in the death is the brother of Rep. Grace Meng. Fraternity President Andrew Meng was accused of hazing, conspiracy and hindering prosecution in the killing at a rented home in Pennsylvania’s Pocono Mountains.

“This young man’s death was a
Chun (Michael) Deng died on Dec. 8, 2013, during a violent hazing ritual dubbed the "Glass Ceiling." The fraternity members provided the most detailed look yet at the deadly ritual.

Local Police Chief Chris Wagner announced charges Tuesday against fraternity members in the 2013 hazing death of a Baruch College student in the Poconos.

The chapter's pledge educator, who oversees the induction of potential new members, remembered seeing Deng knocked down at least three times in a snow-covered yard. The last time, Deng never stood up. "I can usually say, 'I say stop!' and everything stops," said pledge educator Sheldon Wong. "And then you just tell them ... to fix themselves of anything that gets out of hand. 'But I guess that one split second, things got out of hand, and I couldn't do anything about it,'" he said.

Wong is one of the frat brothers facing murder charges in the death, along with Daniel Li — who described Deng's brain injury as "unlucky."

Fraternity member Norman Chuk recounted watching the final, savage hit on Deng, with murder suspect Kenny Kwan getting up a full head of steam before slamming into his target.

Joe McDonald reported from Pocono Summit, Pa.

**ON A MOBILE DEVICE? WATCH THE VIDEO HERE.**