

THE ORATOR

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT NEWSPAPER

Empowering the voice of the urban student.

IN THIS ISSUE:

Pg. 2 • From the Newsroom

Pg. 3-4 • Student Voices

Pg. 5 • All Around HCCC

Pg. 6 • Sports

Volume VII, Issue I

March 2018

FREE

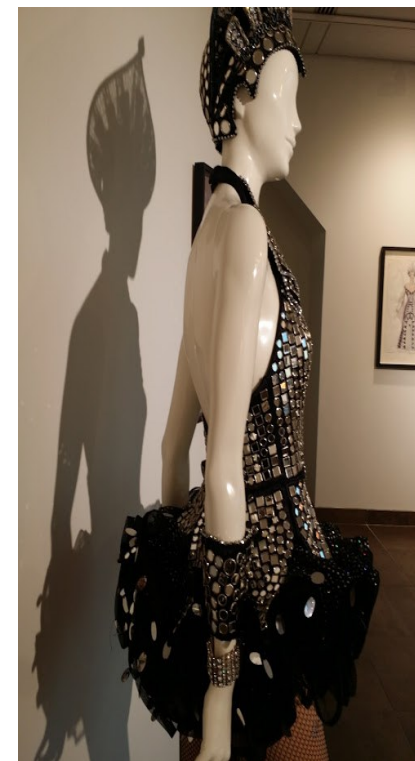
Broadway Talents: The Show Must Go On!

Martina Nevado
Staff Writer

Throughout the month of February the Benjamin J. Dineen III and Dennis C. Hull Gallery hosted “Out on Broadway: A Visual Legacy.” In this exhibition visitors were delighted with the works of great costume designers such as Gregg Barnes, Jess Goldstein, William Ivey Long, Bob Mackie, David Murin, Arianne Phillips, and David Zinn. The Curator was the costume designer James E. Crochet who is also the owner of Leading Lady Costumes. The design of dresses has undergone changes through time, but it is on the stage where it is always fashionable and where it will always make history. The display of these beautiful pieces brought to our mind the memories of Broadway and reminded us that the show is not over and must go on.

Even though I'm a designer, I still have plenty to learn. I was really surprised by the quality of the works and the different elements and textures used in these costumes that are true works of art. The application of mirrors in these dresses creates an exquisite and magical effect when the stage lights are reflected in them. It brings to my mind the magic that is lived inside the Pantheon where the rays of the sun that enter through the oculus are captured inside the dome and everyone who enters the building is bathed in this light. The talent of these artists was demonstrated in their original designs. You could see a great display of originality and creativity. The different

es and the decorations at the discretion of each designer amazes for its display of eccentricity and beauty. The show that will be presented on the Broadway stage is presented by the actor as well as the artist who dressed him. Everything must be superbly combined to cause a big impact on the audience. When it exceeds expectations, the stage trembles with the applause and the merriment that is formed by the approval of the public. Broadway is more than feathers and sequins; the complement of each piece creates a spectacular composition. The designer is a great strategist. Without minimizing the performance of the actor, he must learn the script to make the cut in the show. Instead, the designer without using the words, must make the actor shine



This is a clear example of complement and precision between both artists. This Broadway production won six Tony Awards in 1984. The performances of the LGBT community on Broadway changed the perspectives of the public, and although there is still much to be achieved, people are learning to live with tolerance of diversity and respect for others. This community has shown that like any individual on earth they can develop incredible talents.

To find out more about the Dineen Hull Gallery and its current exhibits, visit: <http://www.hccc.edu/dineenhullgallery/>



textures and appliques came together to form an exceptional whole. This is a level of art that requires a lot of precision. The combinations are perfect match-



which is even more difficult to express. That it is where lies the art of the designer.

The beauty of their designs says it all. Each costume should fit each actor and be appropriate for each act and when this is achieved, the show will be unforgettable. Every expression of art on each act causes a different impact on the viewer. From the moment that an actor comes to the stage the first thing that the spectator appreciates and criticizes afterwards, it is his dress. This is the memory that the public will keep in mind. It is impossible to forget *La Cage aux Folles*, in which all the eccentricity was created not only by the actors but also by the costume designers.



Photos courtesy of Martina Nevado

[f](#) /HCCcedu [t](#) @HudsonCCC

JERSEY CITY CAMPUS
70 SIP AVE. JERSEY CITY, NJ • (201) 714-7100

NORTH HUDSON CAMPUS
4800 KENNEDY BLVD., UNION CITY, NJ • (201) 360-4020

OFFSITE LOCATIONS
BAYONNE • HOBOKEN • KEARNY • SECAUCUS

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Close to Home. Affordable.
High Quality. Life-Changing.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: WWW.HCCC.EDU

THE ORATOR

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT NEWSPAPER

The Orator is the official student newspaper of Hudson County Community College - © 2016. No part of this paper may be reproduced without permission. Opinion columns and letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editor and staff of The Orator. Student submissions become the property of The Orator.

Brandon Cauley
President

Andrew Bishop
The Orator Club Advisor

Nevin Perkins
Vice President

Heather DeVries
Humanities Orator Liaison

*Read more The Orator
at bit.ly/theorator
Follow us on Twitter
[@OratorHCCC](https://twitter.com/OratorHCCC)*



LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

Greetings to the students of HCCC. I hope all of you have had a great semester. It is an honor to announce myself, Brandon Cauley, and Nevin Perkins as the new co-editors in chief for the Spring of 2018. We would like to thank our former club president Michael Pardal for his undying contributions over the past three semesters.

We are extremely excited to publish our first issue of the schools newspaper in the month of April. While losing some members of the club, we have still maintained the same synergy, and it shows in the articles put together. Hopefully, we will get some engagements from our fellow peers, and can start some conversations.

We welcome any feedback and encourage students to find out more information about The Orator and possibly join our team of talented writers.

Meet The Orator 2018

Staff

BRANDON CAULEY



What's up, my name is Brandon Cauley. I am a liberal arts English major, and a huge sports fan. Being a part of The Orator gives me a big platform to speak on sports and sometimes, social issues. My goal is to be a sports commentator.

NEVIN PERKINS



What's happening folks! I'm Nevin Perkins, a second year liberal arts major here at HCCC. I am the Vice President of The Orator. I enjoy reading and listening to great music, as well as keeping up with the current events in society. I will do my best to bring you updated news regarding, sports, current events, and social justice issues.

RONDAL SCOTT



Greetings! My name is Rondal, I am a first-year student here at Hudson. While majoring in business management, I possess a strong love for the arts. I plan on keeping you all up to date on everything from human equality to the latest fashion ins and outs! Everyone have a blessed and successful semester!

MARTINA NEVADO



Hi, my name is Martina Nevado, I am a Studio Arts Major. I am very creative and I love teaching and helping others. I support the children of my community with fashion design and cooking classes. Also, I like to write poetry and about motivational topics to inspire young people to reach their life goals. Follow me on fb.com/

FATIMA OSMAN



Hi, my name is Fatima Osman. I am a Mathematics major here in HCCC, but I love to write as well. I want my writing to let people see things in a different perspective. I plan to become a high school mathematics teacher; however, I would love to write for a newspaper or perhaps write my own book someday.

Editorial: Abolish the Death Penalty

Fatima Osman

Staff Writer

The Code of Hammurabi was a sculpture from 1700 BCE and it had the first ever written laws. Inside the scriptures laid out people who commit adultery, steal or accuse without cause, to be sentenced to death. Since then, capital punishment was practiced in countries, however countries like the UK, France, and Australia realized the ineffectiveness of capital punishment and outlawed it. Nevertheless it is still regularly practiced in the US in thirty-one states.

Although not regularly practiced as before, criminals can still get sentenced to execution. In 2017, twenty-three people were executed (three at the beginning of this year). However, capital punishment has proven not to be effective for a myriad of reasons. In a national study called "On the Front Line," police officers listed officer presence, longer sentences, and rehabilitation centers as a more effective deterrent to crime than capital punishment.

Neurocriminology is a recent branch of study, and over the years, re-

searchers have studied different parts of the brain of capital offenders. In one case, Adam Raine, a criminal offender accused of killing his wife, in an MRI examination, showed low activation in his prefrontal cortex. Although I completely resonate with the arguments from people who support the death penalty, I cannot help but see the irony of this punishment. It promotes the very behavior it wishes to eradicate. Not only that, but it is based on a retributive stance. People who oppose mostly point out the need for the offender to feel what the victim had felt, but this argument is based on emotion, and emotion, although completely valid, has no place in the American judicial system.

There is also an argument on the lengthy appeal process; of the nineteen people set for execution last year, the average amount of time the offenders spent in jail awaiting execution was nineteen years. These years are a combination of lengthy appeals (offenders can start with a direct appeal and can

last all the way to the supreme court) and problems with pharmaceutical companies selling their drugs for execution. "A lot of these pharmaceutical companies are not really in favor of selling their drugs for the purpose of execution," says Robert Lytle, an assistant professor at the University of Alabama ("Here's Why It Takes so Long to Execute a Death Row Inmate").

Unfortunately, executions have shown to be racially biased and the difference between one offender and another from getting the death penalty is unfortunately not the nature of the crime but the overzealousness of the prosecutor ("Too Broken to Fix"). The United States stands with Saudi Arabia, North Korea, Iran and China to still have this ancient punishment legal. Capital punishment simply does not fit with American values and should be outlawed once and for all.

The "R" Word

Brandon Cauley

Co-Editor In-Chief

If you know me well, you know I do not really have a filter for certain things. Hardly do I ever take certain things seriously in this world, because if that is the case, I would stress myself. But I, like many other people, do not have a tolerance for some things. One of those things is the word "retarded". To most people, it is looked at as a harmless thing to call people, but it has become so normalized that they do realize the extent of using that word. It is not talked about enough, and I look to start the conversation. Typically, people use the word "retarded" to call someone stupid, or for committing a stupid act. Like I said, people believe it is harmless, but think about when you use that word to describe people. You insult those that suffer from mental retardation or conditions like autism. What is the definition of autism? According to Autism Speaks, "autism refers to a range of conditions characterized by challenges with social skills, repetitive behaviors, speech and nonverbal communication, as well as by unique strengths and differences". Given the definition of autism, you would think people would have a certain level of sympathy for people with disabilities. Well, that is absolutely not the case. Here's what is a given; people that suffer from autism go through so many challenges on a daily basis. They are not your ordinary person, and as uncomfortable as that makes me feel to say that, it is a fact. However, it does not negate the fact they are smart human beings. Think about it: every challenge possible is put in their way to try and learn things, and still, they prosper through it. The problem is that people try to look

at the erratic and awkward behavior, and try to make them feel like they are not human beings themselves. Instead, they are looked at as idiotic monsters that are unable to complete tasks like "normal" people. It is not right, but it is normalized. Why is that? Because people see them as an easy target. It seems as though it is human nature for people to judge those that are not like them in every sense. This unfortunately does not excuse people with disadvantages from feeling the wrath of insecure people. I have a cousin who has autism, and without any bias, I can safely say he is one of the smartest people I know. However, at a point, I was ignorant about his condition. Ignorant to the point where I would call him names (although I never called him "retarded") and insult his intelligence. The reason behind that was obviously insecurity, but also for the "fact" I knew I was better than him. He could do absolutely nothing to me, and if I kept it under wraps, nothing would happen to me. Looking back on those days, it makes me sick that I took advantage of a person with autism. Regardless if you are disadvantaged or not, no one deserves to be treated in a way that makes them feel inhuman. Although I have never truly forgave myself for my actions, that fact the I can write to people in support for these great people makes me feel more than great. "What are you, autistic?" "You/this looks like it has down syndrome." "You are so retarded." These are just some things I have heard from people, with my friends included. Do me a favor; if you are reading this article, and giving head nods for approval, please do not let it stop

there. Talk to your friends about the significance of using the word "retarded". Explain to them why it is offensive to use the word considering all there is behind it. It is time we as people stop trying to isolate people with disabilities as if they are not human. They have feelings, they can complete tasks just like us, but they go about things in a different fashion. So the next time you call someone "retarded" for making a not-so smart decision, take a step back, and think about what you are saying. It is time to start controlling the narrative about people with disabilities, and it must be a positive one. I speak for the good ones when I say I root for anyone that has any type of disability; you all deserve the world.



Photo courtesy of Wikipedia.com

Ying Yang

Nevin Perkins

Co-Editor-In Chief

Life can become very disruptive without a proper balance. Keeping a balance is critical for maintaining our lives as we wish them to be. Nearly every element of our life requires some balance to function with longevity. In everything we do, we must be sure not to tip the scale.

In our relationships, it is important that we are willing to be kind, a source of comfort, and a beacon of light. Allow people to feel comfortable coming to us for help. However, we must be stern. We cannot allow ourselves to be walked over. To be abused. People are not permitted to take advantage of us. We can trust, but not with a blind eye. Balance.

Hard work is an important part of achieving success. The grind, as they say, never stops. Remain diligent, focused, as well as determined. The harder we work, the closer our visions will become. This is understood. What is also comprehensible is that on the other side of hard work, lies time for relaxation and enjoying ourselves, which is essential. We are aware that time is infinitely moving forward. Too much hard work and no play can permit the majority of our lives to slither by with nothing more than achievements, no memories. Take vacations. Relax yourself every so often. Do not over exert your energy.

Individually, we are our greatest motivators. We push ourselves, constantly looking to improve elements of our lives. We workout looking to improve our health and physical appearance. We set goals for ourself that we wish to accomplish. We work harder at our crafts to constantly level up. All the while we tell ourselves that we need to be better. Some of us bash ourselves for not showing the results of our training in the gym. Or perhaps for our mishaps in our eating habits. We apply mental pressure on ourselves, trying to reach our dreams. Some of us may tell ourselves that we are not doing enough.

Yes. Push yourself. Motivate yourself. But be careful how you go about it. Encouragement is okay too. Be kind to your mind. Take mental pride in what you have done before attacking yourself about what has yet to be achieved. Balance a love for your haves with a desire for your have nots. Tell yourself you will achieve that desired goal in the gym, in the workplace, or in life in general. Your mentality is everything. Keeping a level field is important. Mix work with fun. Mix the gym with some ice cream. Mix "do better" with "good job." Create and maintain a balance people.

Collaborative Breathing

Rondal Scott

Staff Writer

I'm a firm believer of the concept that if we all help each other instead of it being a competition our world would be a better and far more advanced world. Instead of comparing whose work is better and actually sharing ideas and collaborating, the magic that could be made is unfathomable. The dog eat dog concept only really created divide I believe and it shows in the class systems. If a homeless man pitched you an idea out of the blue would you bring him along for the ride with you even with his situation? Or would you take the idea for yourself? With all the magic we hold inside of us, if we work together things can be truly remarkable. They always say find what you are good at it and work on it. What about all the other things you're good at? No one can stop you from doing all the things you are passionate about. Do all of them, and most likely the result will be you might fail at one of the crafts but at the others you might excel. Why is no one being spoken about in the same breath as Steve Jobs, Walt Disney, Elon Musk? Simply because we are expected to be in just one field. Create your own field and start a journey of passionate things you want to excel at. The moral: reach for the galaxy because there are many stars you can find yourself laying on.

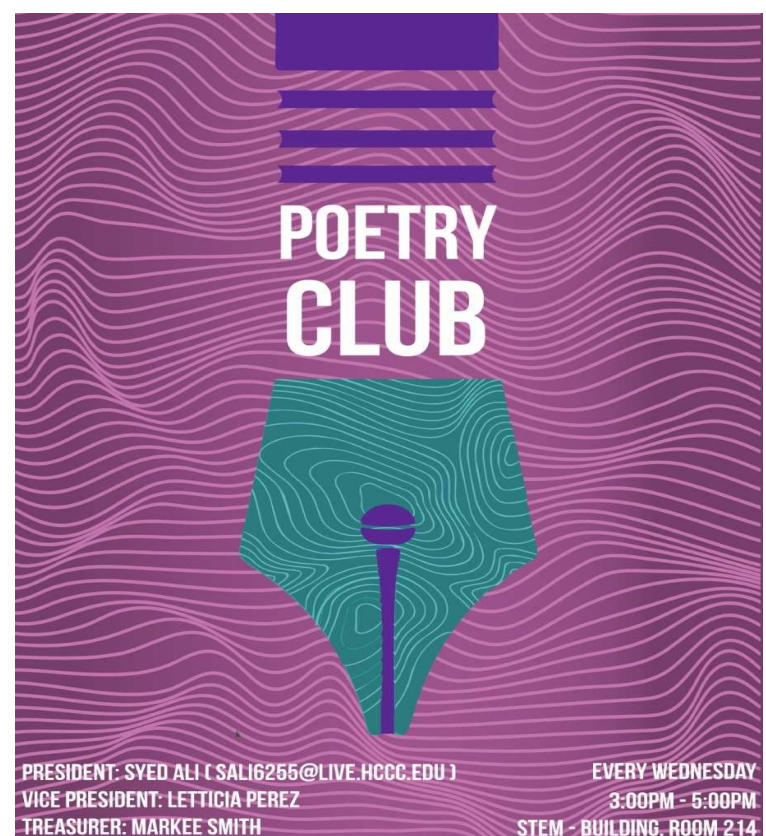
Keep Moving Forward

Rondal Scott

Staff Writer

He put on his leather gloves strapped them around his wrist
 He wanted to make it somewhere quickly
 He wasn't one to usually take risks
 He grabbed the steering wheel
 With his foot on the pedal
 He wasn't in the race for a trophy or a medal
 There was no need for switching lanes
 One was already enough
 Being a vulnerable person he always felt so much
 His windows were tinted he wanted none to his smile
 He was afraid that someone would take it away for miles
 Already short on gas but his money was running low
 On the interstate doing 150mph like he had somewhere to go
 There was no destination it was a drive that only a few of us take
 He dropped the top to his Mustang and there he saw a lake
 He rushed out unbuttoned his leather jacket
 The sun was beaming heat
 He approached the lake as he was leaving the street
 He saw a frog on top of a lily pad
 He thought to himself why does he stay there all day
 He then realized the frog only did what he needed not what he wanted
 He looked at his jacket there was no reason to flaunt it
 He took it off and hung it upon a branch
 Turned away and marched back in his biker pants
 He was content but not satisfied
 He appreciated it all
 Even if that meant there was a probability of his fall
 March on

Do you write poetry too? If so, check out HCCC's very own Poetry Club! See the flyer below for details.



A Glimpse of Ineffective Diplomacy: My First Harvard National MUN Experience

Nasar Qadir
Contributing Writer

On February 15th, 2018, I was one of four delegates representing Hudson County Community College in the Harvard National Model United Nations conference held in Boston, Massachusetts. I was part of the Historical General Assembly 1956 committee, representing The Kingdom of Libya with my partner Jaye Rodriguez.

An MUN conference is an academic simulation of the United Nations, where students from all over the world are assigned a random UN member country to represent. After the assignment, students turn into delegates, promoting only the opinions of the country they represent.

As the conference began, the topic that most delegates voted upon was to discuss the “Suez Canal Crisis”, a chaotic crisis which revolved around Egypt, United Kingdom, France, and Israel. It was an adrenaline rush like no other. In a room of almost 100 people, delegates that would like to give a speech regarding their country’s stance on the issue were asked to raise their placards. I raised mine.

I had only a minute and a half to come up with a 30 second speech in which I must eloquently, and dramatically, put forth Libya’s stance. I was able to convey 10-12 speeches like such. All relating to the crisis in hand, I would be faced with multiple debate topics after every ten minutes. And after each debate, delegates would send me notes, praising my speech in a futile effort to lure me into working with them. Such strategic measures had an immense impact on my next move. Each speech of mine had to be a response to another country’s opinion regarding the topic. Over and over, my focus had to shift from observing other delegates while also figuring out my own reaction.

But the constant quarrels in the hall were only part of the thrill. The purpose of all debates conducted inside the committee rooms was for delegates to come to a majority agreement regarding a solution for the crisis. This solution would be written down as a draft resolution. Once voted by 2/3rds of the countries in the committee, the resolution would pass. (In an actual UN committee,

once a resolution passes, all UN members are forced to comply with all the solutions drafted in it).

To be able to input Libya’s ideas for solutions in the draft resolution, Jaye had to negotiate with delegates outside the committee room. Negotiation required Jaye to be firm in some solutions and compromisable in others. When criticism against the United Nations arise, it is without any knowledge about the negotiations that take place. Every country wants to believe in their own ideals. To convince a delegate representing a nation to disregard their ideals is a job not many wish to have. This rare ability of countries to compromise on their stance is what makes the United Nations ineffective.

Jaye and I witnessed that firsthand. In the end, none of the resolutions were able to acquire 2/3rd’s of the vote, deeming any ideas for solutions fruitless. But what we were able to grasp, and what the conference was trying to teach us, was much more valuable than that: the complex reality of diplomacy, which in turn enhanced our public speaking abilities, sweet-talking skills, and sympathy towards diplomats.

**NOTE: The MUN club is currently looking for successors who would take part in the Harvard conference on February 2019*



Photo courtesy of Nasar Qadir

“Light Bulb” By Model United Nations

Nasar Qadir
Contributing Writer

A mentor is a person who is described as someone who is trusted and looked up to, not only as an advisor but as a guide, a friend, and a beacon of light. We, as beings, have been thrown into the abyss of existence, and are now lost in the darkness of life, as it passes. Hopelessly, aimlessly wandering through, in search of light.

This podcast aims and hopes to become that spark which might ignite your source of light. By venturing into the minds of professors using the power of conversation, we will explore the methods on how they searched for their light. Welcome to the Light Bulb, by Model United Nations.

Podcast available on Apple Podcasts



Photo courtesy of Nasar Qadir

How Nick Foles Became a Legend In One Night

Brandon Cauley
Co-Editor In-Chief

So, football fans; if I brought up the name “Nick Foles” to you before the 2017 NFL season, what would be one word to describe him? Would it be “forgotten”? How about “disappointment”? Or what about “irrelevant”? Any answer might suffice. Foles, who was drafted in the 3rd round of the 2012 NFL Draft by the Philadelphia Eagles, was slated to be the backup to then starting quarterback Michael Vick, despite receiving a four-year deal. Foles did not make much noise in his first season in 2012, but 2013 was when Foles completely hit his stride. Foles relieved Vick after an injury, and absolutely took the NFL by storm. Despite falling to the New Orleans Saints in the NFC Wild Card game, Foles put together the season stat line of throwing for 2,891 yards, tossing 27 touchdowns while only throwing an insane 2 interceptions in 10 games started.

Let’s fast forward to 2018. Foles is in his second stint with the Eagles, but this time, he is in the Super Bowl against the New England Patriots. It was a shock that the Eagles are even in this position considering that they lost their franchise quarterback, and leading MVP candidate Carson Wentz in Week 14 against the Los Angeles Rams. Also, Foles was benched in a Week 17 loss against the Dallas Cowboys, which was the biggest warning sign of them all for number one seeded Eagles. Despite all of the doubts, Foles balled out in the playoffs. The highlight of his playoff campaign was his incredible NFC Championship performance against a stout Minnesota Vikings defense. Foles went 26 of 33 passing, 352 yards, and 3 touchdowns. Despite the performance, people thought the devil magic would run out against the evil empire the Patriots.

The Foles-led Eagles defeated the Patriots in the Super Bowl 41-33. People thought if the Eagles were going to win, the defense would come through. However, it was the complete op-

posite. Foles put together another masterful performance, throwing for 373 yards, 3 touchdowns, and a lucky interception to capture the Eagles first ever Super Bowl title, and MVP honors. Foles made all of the “big boy” throws he had to make to win, and it was one of the better Super Bowl performances anyone has ever seen. Foles accomplished so much in one night, but let’s not forget where Foles was before his magical 2017-18 ride.

As stated before, Foles once took the NFL by storm with his 2013 season, but after that, everything came down. The 2014 season ended with a 13-10 touchdown to interception ratio, and Foles ended the season on the injured reserve list. After the season, Foles first stint with the Eagles came to an end as he was inexplicably traded to the then-St. Louis Rams. Foles had a very forgettable stint with the Rams as he tossed 7 touchdowns, and 10 interceptions. His time in St. Louis ended as they decided to draft Jared Goff with the number one overall pick.

Foles next stop was in Kansas City with the Chiefs in 2016. He came in with the sole purpose of backing up starting quarterback Alex Smith. Foles played three games, while starting one. He ended with 3 touchdowns and no interceptions, while winning the only game he started. After the season, Foles declined his second year option with the Chiefs, and became a free agent. Despite still having capabilities as a backup, Foles considered retiring. People could tell he was rattled after his time with the Rams, and never truly recovered. As he was ready to move on, Foles was getting interest from Doug Pederson, who was the Eagles quarterback coach in Foles’ rookie year, and is the current Eagles head coach. Pederson still saw something in Foles, and the rest is history.

Imagine going from getting ready to retire, to Super Bowl champion, and Philadelphia legend. Not only is he a legend in Rocky’s town, but if he retired tomorrow, he will forever be remem-

bered for his amazing run last season. This is a story that a video game could make up. Even if you are a fan of a different team (yes, even a division rival), this is a story that everyone can get behind. There is a bigger message behind Foles’ story; and that is never, ever give up on your dreams. Even when things seem bleak sometimes, there is always a light at the end of the tunnel. All you have to do is want it. Foles is an inspiration for anyone who believes they can not complete a task. Just remember everyone: ANYTHING is possible.



Photo credit to James Jackson



Photo credit to Talk Media News