Two BCC Students Among Kaplan Scholarship Awardees

Special to The Communicator

By Alixan Ducravy

Bronx Community College is so intentional in making newly-minted Broncos feel at home, entering freshmen are treated to a two-phase introduction to the college; and this year was no exception. Freshman orientation is a matter-of-fact, bare-bones introduction to the what and where of the college, while the official Freshman Convocation is a more celebratory affair that puts students in contact with the who of the college—including administration and student government leadership.

As Associate Dean for Student Development, Dean Manny Lopez put it, orientation welcomes the student while the official Freshman Convocation is to tell students, “We support you.” Dean Lopez said this year some 2,000 students have chosen Bronx Community College to begin their tertiary education journey. And, according to Student Life Specialist Yonne Erazo, while orientation gets students familiar with the college, Freshman Convocation serves to “welcome and motivate” entering Broncos.

And supported and motivated they were. This year’s Freshman Convocation featured BCC alumnus and NYU graduate, Terrance Coffie, whose life story serves as a powerful motivational to Broncos, many for whom college is their only way out of hopelessness, low expectations, and marginalization. As Erazo told The Communicator, this year she wanted students to hear not just from any motivational speaker with whom they cannot relate, but from someone whose “story is theirs.”

Coffie, whose story has been highlighted on television and in The New York Times, and several other media outlets, is a former 6-time felon who entered college at 39 armed with a GED and hunger and thirst to turn around a life that had been going nowhere for too long. Siting with Coffie before the event began, he told this writer he wanted his story to help students understand “the value of who they are,” and that even if there are forces that seek to “devalue who they may be in the current climate,” they must understand the “big picture, (which is) they are members of this society.” According to the BCC alumnus and twice-selected NYU student of the year, students should challenge the assumptions that the society makes about them because of where they live, what language they speak, and their ethnicity. Overcoming low expectations, “doesn’t come with wishful thinking...[but with] determination,” Coffie said. Students will need to “make effort and focus to understand their purpose.”

Coffie told his felon-to-scholar story with passion and authenticity, while avoiding two pitfalls that bedevil motivational speakers with rags-to-riches, or adversity-to-opportunity stories. He didn’t regale students with accounts of his past life (which he summarized as “another chapter to Terrance Coffie”), neither did he revel in his new status as a self-made super achiever. From the beginning, he said his talk would not be about himself, but focus on the students’ success.

And he kept that promise, telling students, “the story that matters today is not mine—it’s yours.” Still, his own story of how education helped him escape the limitations of being a “thirty-nine-year-old body, homeless, six-time felon,” served as a powerful subtext to his elevating speech which was well received by the 300 persons gathered at Gould Memorial auditorium during club hours, Thursday August 31.

Other addresses came from the president of the college, Dr. Thomas Iskenegebe, and Student Government Association president, Mary Martinez. President Iskenegebe officially welcomed the entering students and told them they were embarking on a long process, because “education is a lifelong process.”

Student government president, Mary Martinez, welcomed entering students to “your second home.” To the featured speaker, she said, “Welcome back home.” Introducing herself in both English and Spanish, Martinez, with her characteristic authenticity and personality, had four suggestions for the students, whom she addressed as,”my people.” Drawing on her own experience as student leader, tutor, and Phi That Kapa scholar, Martinez called on students to ask questions, excel in their classes, get involved, and be their best selves.

Student Andre Cheeks also held to the theme of motivation and support with an energetic musical performance titled, “Anything is Possible.”

If Freshman Convocation is any indication, the class of 2019 is well poised, as Student Life Specialist Yonne Erazo predicted, to be “happy and successful...confident, knowledgeable, and strong.”

Sources and further reading


CAMPUS NEWS

2017-2018 Student Government Association

Executive Board Senators

Mary Martinez-Nunez
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2017-2018 Student Government Association

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Michael Akingbade
Senator
Senator

Phi Theta Kappa Announces JKCF Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship Application Now Open

The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation seeks outstanding community college students with financial need for its Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship. The JKCF Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship makes it possible for the nation’s top community college students to complete their bachelor’s degrees by transferring to a selective four-year college or university.

If you are a student who stands out for your exceptional academic abilities and achievements, passion, leadership, and desire to help others, please visit the JKCF website to learn more.

The application deadline is October 24, 2017.

Our Mission

The mission of Phi Theta Kappa is to recognize academic achievement of college students and to provide opportunities for them to grow as scholars and leaders.

Contact Us

1625 Eastover Drive, Jackson, MS 39211
1.601.987.5741

Phi Theta Kappa
Announces JKCF Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship Application Now Open

Save the Date!

Global Perspectives / Bronx Community College

Department of Art & Music Fall Concert Series

September 28, 2017 at 12pm
Roscoe C. Brown Playhouse
Ali Bello and The Sweet Wire Band
In celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month

October 26, 2017 at 12pm
Gould Memorial Library Auditorium
Palsiedes Virtusu

November 30, 2017 at 12pm
Gould Memorial Library Auditorium
Oliver Markson, pianist

The BCC Concert Series is funded by the BCC Inc. Music and Art Consortium, the Office of Academic and Student Success and the Art and Music Department of Bronx Community College.

Celebrating International Education Week November 13-17, 2017

Dreamers/DACA Panel Discussion
Thursday, November 16th
12-1.30 PM
Location: to be announced

Where I Come From
Tuesday, November 14th
12-1.30 PM
Location: to be announced

These programs are curated by Mr. Eugene Adams, Director, Collaborative Education, and Co-director, Science and Technology Entry Program; Ms. L. Vicki Cedeno, Academic Programs Specialist, Office of Academic Affairs; and Professor Andrew Rosan, Department of English.
As a student at the Bronx Community College, I have had the privilege to represent the college at the 2017 AICPA Leadership Workshop which was held from May 17th through May 19th at Houston, Texas. As President of our SPE chapter, I have been aggressive about increasing our profile on campus. We regularly provide me to grow. Having attended the American Chemical Society's annual ANTEC conference, I was mentored when I joined SPE, as President of our SPE chapter, I have received a highly competitive fellowship with my research group. Having attended several ANTEC, I really felt that in many students as well as the college itself. We regularly

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There's no need to put yourself down. Listen to some advice.

You can't always rush into things so quickly without some help from time to time to get things done. You may need some help from time to time to get things done.

Cancer: June 21 to July 22
This is no time to put yourself down. Listen to some beautiful songs to help you return to a good state of mind.

Aries: March 21 - April 19
There's no need to put yourself down. Listen to some beautiful songs to help you return to a good state of mind.

Taurus: April 20 to May 20
Now is it a wonderful time to enjoy nature. Go outdoors and enjoy the beauty of nature.

Gemini: May 21 to June 20
It's time for you to think clearly. Shut out all external noise and think about the problems you may have.

Cancer: June 21 to July 22
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Leo: July 23 to August 22
There's no need to put yourself down. Listen to some beautiful songs to help you return to a good state of mind.

Virgo: August 23 to September 22
This is no time to put yourself down. Listen to some beautiful songs to help you return to a good state of mind.

Libra: September 23 to October 22
This is no time to put yourself down. Listen to some beautiful songs to help you return to a good state of mind.

Scorpio: October 23 to November 21
Don't keep looking in yourself. Keep fighting for what you want and you will succeed.

Sagittarius: November 22 to December 21
Don't keep looking in yourself. Keep fighting for what you want and you will succeed.

Capricorn: December 22 to January 19
There's no need to put yourself down. Listen to some beautiful songs to help you return to a good state of mind.

Aquarius: January 20 to February 18
You may have lots of options to choose from. Follow your heart with the choices you make.

Pisces: February 19 to March 20
Don't keep looking in yourself. Keep fighting for what you want and you will succeed.

Future Leaders of S.T.E.M. - To recruit and retain minority students pursuing careers in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine. (Advisor: Karen Régis, Karen.regis@bcc.cuny.edu)

MATH and COMPUTER SCIENCE CLUB - Students will get opportunity to investigate critical thinking skills, compute, risk on leadership role and improve mathematical problem solving skills. (Advisor: Evangelia Antonakos, Evangelia.antonakos@bcc.cuny.edu)

MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNICIAN (MLT) CLUB - To ensure that you who have a passion for Medical Laboratory Science can obtain the information needed to progress academically and professionally. (Advisor: Dina Perez, Dina.perez@bcc.cuny.edu)

MUSIC PRODUCTION CLUB - Provides knowledge and practical applications in music production. (Advisor: Clifford L. Marshall, Clifford.marshall@bcc.cuny.edu)

MUSLIM STUDENT ASSOCIATION - To provide education and enlightenment about the non-Muslim peoples and other of cultures to develop understanding between non-Muslim peoples and other. (Advisor: Haseine Fanadj, Haseine.fanadj@bcc.cuny.edu)

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK ACCOUNTANTS (NABA) - To develop, encourage, and serve as a voice for greater participation by African Americans and minorities in the accounting profession. (Advisor: Clarence Perkins, Clarence.perkins@bcc.cuny.edu)

NURSING CLUB - To educate BCC about health related issues and give back to the community through volunteering. (Advisor: Virginia Bellwood, Virginia.bellwood@bcc.cuny.edu)

PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE CLUB - To increase peace consciousness in its members and among the campus community. (Advisor: David Blot, David.blot@bcc.cuny.edu)

PHI THETA KAPPA HONOR SOCIETY - To recognize students who excel academically, promote academic excellence in the classroom, and to help those who genuinely aspire to the same goal. (Advisor: Cassandra Bellabe, Cassandra.bellabe@bcc.cuny.edu)

SPOKEN WORD - To provide, improve, nurture and enhance speech skills. (Advisor: Janet Robertson, Janet.robertson@bcc.cuny.edu)

TENNIS CLUB - To educate BCC about health related issues and give back to the community through volunteering. (Advisor: John Socas, John.socas@bcc.cuny.edu)

THEATER WORKSHOP - Perform and assess theatrical performances and encourage theatrical involvement of the BMC campus community. (Advisor: John Socas, John.socas@bcc.cuny.edu)

THE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL SCIENCE CLUB - To increase peace consciousness in its members and among the campus community. (Advisor: John Socras, John.socas@bcc.cuny.edu)

INTER-ORGANIZATIONAL COUNCIL (IOC) - To support and help breadth student skills with artistic: products. (Advisor: Mary Jo Ben-Nun, Maryjo.ben-nun@bcc.cuny.edu)

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION for FILM STUDENTS (NAFS) - Students will have an opportunity to enter them into national and international film festivals. (Advisor: Charmaine Aleong, Charmaine.aleong@bcc.cuny.edu)

OCEANIC SOCIETY - To enhance the study of the plastic marine environment. To provide education about the impact of plastic debris in the ocean. (Advisor: Edwin Roman, Edwin.roman@bcc.cuny.edu)

SEEKERS CHRISTIAN CLUB - To share the bounty and teachings of the gospel of Christ. (Advisor: Timothy Sedore, Timothy.sedore@bcc.cuny.edu)

SPEECH, DRAMA and DEBATE - To provide BCC students with a platform outside of the classroom in which to practice, perform and gain proficiency in oral communication. (Advisor: Carmen Myers, Carmen.myers@bcc.cuny.edu)

TAU PI HIonor SOCIETY - Promotes and encourages scholarship achievement and to recognize outstanding scholarship among students students in engineering technology programs. (Advisor: Hamad Khan, Hamad.khan@bcc.cuny.edu)

TENNIS CLUB - To promote the practice and learning of tennis among students. (Advisor: Jonathan Scott, Jonathan.scott@bcc.cuny.edu)

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The Suffering Artists.

We, We only want you to hear us.
We only want you to understand.
The ones looked down upon until we are in the grave.

The Suffering Artists.

Disconnected from reality than to just watch with no connection. Though, I'm so very unhappy, I can be happy online. I'm addicted to this feeling of loneliness but I will not stop. Why would I? I'd rather be constantly connected to a world that's full of people I never met, people I can't see, people I can't touch, people that are only a few clicks away.

I'll sit at home alone in the dark scrolling down my timeline. It's like everything is at my fingertips, but nothing is actually close. I'm so disconnected. It's like I'm in a bubble, and I don't know how to get out. It's like I'm trapped in a never-ending cycle of scrolling, liking, commenting, and sometimes even posting.

As I Publicize My Secrets

Have you ever felt completely alone in a crowded room? That's how it feels when you're constantly connected to a world that's full of people you don't know. When you're connected to a world that's full of people you can't see, people you can't touch, people that are only a few clicks away.

As I Publicize My Secrets

But the most hypocritical proposition of these racist thinkers was that they bestowed over the other races of European ancestry. All the other races and origins were considered inferior, and were defined as if they have the right to murder any black person they choose.

History, Culture, and death of African Americans have been subjected to many atrocities.

Join a Club!

But the most hypocritical proposition of these racist thinkers was that they bestowed over the other races of European ancestry. All the other races and origins were considered inferior, and were defined as if they have the right to murder any black person they choose.

JOIN A CLUB!

The Suffering Artists.

As I Publicize My Secrets

So the question is, what can we do? How can we make a difference? How can we push for change?

As I Publicize My Secrets

For instance, in India, the god known as Shiva within the Hindu pantheon is called the Great Destroyer and the Great Preserver. Shiva is often depicted as a warrior, holding a trident and a drum, with one foot on a dead body. He is the god of death and destruction, but also of creation and destruction.

As I Publicize My Secrets

There was a time when African Americans were lynched by mobs, often in front of cheering crowds. The Ku Klux Klan was one of the organizations responsible for these lynchings.

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Hatred belittles you. Love isn't difficult to give. Humans deserve love and kindness. We are human, Black, White, Latino, Asian. Society is lacking the expression of love. Fear, hatred, anger, sometimes I doubt myself because I can't believe there are. But I am selfish and before you, I put myself. Stop pretending to be caring, Oh, you're so silly my dear. This “ludus” love will not last forever. But should you really be questioning? Do you even believe in us? My dear. But how can you believe in a forever? You tell me, you want to be here forever. Like an old Elvis Presley record, worth caring; How can you love someone like myself? But sometimes I’m questioning.

Another Sestina

By Heidy Santos

I wake up one early morning, questioning my self-worth and everything that's happening around me. My everyday life speaks about what is happening around me. You don't care? That's not true. I know you want people to believe your daily acting. They lied to you.

Love is keep us going

By Isela Lrelares

If I take you hand ever so blind promise me we'll always be right but to want the truth. She didn't see anything wrong until my fingers started contorting into painful looking talking, but it was after she said the public school comment that I started hyperventilating. I continued to fail she would put me in public school. I started crying before she started

Four Blooms Campus College students - Alain Duceyr, Sharron Harry, L_acie Santiago and Shion Delgado - at the Global Lens film series at GCC's Global Citizenship Seminar in Salburg, Austria. What are exceptions from the general trend? Some of those who studied abroad experiences have meant to their science. SHAVINIE HARRY

I was statute to be selected as one of the four students who would expose the college on an international level. However, I knew it would be a difficult task to get a spot in Africa and would require a lot of work and effort to make sure that I am selected. Today, I finally got a contract from my parents to take. One of the bloomers in Africa.

The BluePrint

A poem by Rosyvel Reid

I want you to be my everything, my Queen, my pretty. I promise to love you just as much as I love me that much to me I’d go to hell and back for you just so you know you mean to me. She closes her eyes and exhales all her worries away. She doesn’t see anything wrong until my fingers started contorting into painful looking talking, but it was after she said the public school comment that I started hyperventilating. I continued to fail she would put me in public school. I started crying before she started

The Blind Trust

By Jasmine Haynes

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The courage of changing during my lifetime

By Shalinie Dodaj

"Man cannot discover new salts unless he has the courage to look at the stars" that’s what the French winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature, Andre Malraux, said. "What do we have here without the courage to look at the stars?"

The Victoria’s Secret

The models in their bras, and panties, in lingerie in the sky.

The reason in my head, and the secret in the soul of the universe. My curiosity goes beyond your pity. Telling me to understand as much as I might want to know what’s inside my mind.

The GLOBAL LENS

Salzburg Global Citizenship Seminar Reflections - 2017

Another Sestina

By Heidy Santos

I wake up one early morning, questioning my self-worth and everything that's happening around me. My everyday life speaks about what is happening around me. You don't care? That's not true. I know you want people to believe your daily acting. They lied to you.

Love is keep us going

By Isela Lrelares

If I take you hand ever so blind promise me we'll always be right but to want the truth. She didn't see anything wrong until my fingers started contorting into painful looking talking, but it was after she said the public school comment that I started hyperventilating. I continued to fail she would put me in public school. I started crying before she started

Four Blooms Campus College students - Alain Duceyr, Sharron Harry, L_acie Santiago and Shion Delgado - at the Global Lens film series at GCC's Global Citizenship Seminar in Salburg, Austria. What are exceptions from the general trend? Some of those who studied abroad experiences have meant to their science. SHAVINIE HARRY

I was statute to be selected as one of the four students who would expose the college on an international level. However, I knew it would be a difficult task to get a spot in Africa and would require a lot of work and effort to make sure that I am selected. Today, I finally got a contract from my parents to take. One of the bloomers in Africa.

The BluePrint

A poem by Rosyvel Reid

I want you to be my everything, my Queen, my pretty. I promise to love you just as much as I love me that much to me I’d go to hell and back for you just so you know you mean to me. She closes her eyes and exhales all her worries away. She doesn’t see anything wrong until my fingers started contorting into painful looking talking, but it was after she said the public school comment that I started hyperventilating. I continued to fail she would put me in public school. I started crying before she started

The Blind Trust

By Jasmine Haynes

She didn’t see anything wrong until my fingers started contorting into painful looking talking, but it was after she said the public school comment that I started hyperventilating. I continued to fail she would put me in public school. I started crying before she started

The courage of changing during my lifetime

By Shalinie Dodaj

"Man cannot discover new salts unless he has the courage to look at the stars" that’s what the French winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature, Andre Malraux, said. "What do we have here without the courage to look at the stars?"
Another insightful conversation I had was with a German receptionist in the Schloss Leopoldskron from Bavaria who professed he worked there to have discussions that would expose him to other perspectives. We had political discussion over the ideas of universal healthcare, political participation, and even postsecondary education. He provided anecdotes with respect to political life in both Germany and Austria.

When we engage in conversations of humankind’s problems, we must not talk in divisive language, categorizing and distinguishing between people, because all of our experiences and capabilities are the same. The Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site visit helped me realize that the same capacity high cultured Germans in the twentieth century had to produce a systematic and cruel form of mass extermination is the same way the Rwandan genocide was able to be carried out. Yet, this same capacity for evil can be channeled for a greater good as well. The color of our skin is superficial and is simply an adaptation to environmental changes. Therefore, in order to have conversation about solutions to humankind’s problems we need to have holistic conversations that overlook skin color.

The program is both physically and mentally demanding, yet, so much is given for our success. The biggest takeaway from this trip is the philosophical questions it provoked me to face consistently. These are questions I often ponder, the program offered a space where I could delve into these topics which include: Who am I? (The very first question posed to us by Jochen Frief).

LARA B. SAAVEDRA

It is very interesting when at your 25 years of age, you find yourself confined with the smartest people that you have probably met in your entire life: the faculty advisors, the students, and the lecture facilitators. It is also interesting when you are selected randomly to work with 8-10 students that you have only met briefly at the pre-session mixer in Queens to agree on what type of world issue your group presentation will be about. It is even more interesting when you are a student from BCC and your group is the smallest (only four BCC students went on the trip), and so you are divided, and each one of you is placed in separate groups. Therefore, while all the other schools knew their partners, we [BCC students] did not know anyone well.

When you have to do group work, you have to agree to disagree. We are supposed to be grownups. There is no fighting, or pettiness, none of that. You have to get the job done. To me, a South American woman who is extremely passionate, this was a challenge. In the end, even though we got loud sometimes, even though we talked over each other, in the end, we came to an understanding. We all thought that our issues to solve to help make the world a better place were important, and we each pitched in. We compromised.

After we came back, we missed our trip. However, we were also exhausted. The GCA was hard work, but amazing hard work. Everything that we learned in our global citizenship class at BCC prepared us for the best week of my life. Once we were there, we noticed how we were divided, and each one of you is placed in separate groups. Therefore, while all the other schools knew their partners, we [BCC students] did not know anyone well.

For more information about the Salzburg Global Citizenship Alliance and the Global Citizenship Seminar, please contact Professor Andrew Rowan (andrew.rowan@bcc.cuny.edu), 612 Colston Hall.